

DEVOTIONAL 6

1 Cor 2:6-16 ~ Caring for Our World

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"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him." – 1 CORINTHIANS 2:9

Periodically I ask myself three important questions:

1. "Why do I exist?"
2. "What's important to me?"
3. "If I died today, who would be impacted?"

I want my life to have counted for something; that I brought pleasure to God; that I invested my life wisely; that I cared for our world. Nothing can be done to change our past – dwelling on it only causes us to live life looking backwards. Yet God is prepared to take all our decisions – good, bad and indifferent – and weave them into a beautiful canopy that covers our life with meaning, value and worth (see Romans 8:28).

Second-guessing our past produces little, but we can step into our future with confidence. In 1 Cor. 2:9, Paul says something profound, if we have the ears to hear and receive. God has given us freedom to explore the unknown with him, and to experience true wisdom – that which is inconceivable by human efforts.

We are moulded by our past – our accomplishments and failings – but not fully defined by it. Who you present yourself to be, and what you have done in your life, are important when looked at from the human timeline of 80 years, but God has a much grander perspective.

In 1 Cor. 2:6, Paul promises that God's Spirit will unveil true wisdom. It is not wisdom that can be gained through worldly efforts. It has been hidden, but is the true reality God has destined for us before time began. The efforts of politicians, law enforcement officers, legal and financial advisors and the academia of our nation can not understand this kind of wisdom through pursuing their field alone. The "inconceivable" is imparted only by the Spirit, and in relationship with the Divine.

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him." Notice the relationship in this sentence. In the midst of the promise that God will open our eyes, ears and mind, we are confronted with the same question Jesus asked of Peter: "Do you love me?"

When we genuinely love God, God opens our heart to love what He loves: all of Creation. You, me, this entire planet – God created it, called it good, and requested humanity to care for it in the Garden of Eden.

Our experiences do mould us – the choices we make and the circumstances we face – but when we are in relationship with God, we have the opportunity to be moulded by divine love and wisdom. God's Spirit calls out to our spirit, convicting us of truth. Throughout our journey we have encountered joys and experiences that we never dreamed would happen. We have endured heartaches and pain, and times we wondered whether we would survive.

In a loving relationship with God, whatever the circumstance, God will reveal to us how He is shaping our lives and we will begin to see the wonder of it all. With that sense of wonder comes a willingness to walk the path without resisting. We join God's efforts, we agree to pool our energies with His, and we enter the battle of the ages – bringing honour and glory to God in a world that forces its will, agenda and morality on us.

In Colossians 1:20, Paul says that Christ is in the act of reconciling to himself "all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven." And he invites us, as his body on this earth, to participate in that reconciliation. All life is God-breathed. God cares for all of creation – the environment, living creatures and people. The wisdom of caring for that which is outside of ourselves is not something that can be gained through worldly wisdom. God desires to impart to our eyes, ears, minds and hearts a better path – the path of reconciliation of all things. Let's choose to join Him.