

My Thoughts for Sunday, 19 April 2015

“Taste and See That the Lord is Good”

“Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him. Fear the Lord, you his holy people, for those who fear him lack nothing. The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.” Psalm 34:8-10 (NIV2011)

Author Simon Tugwell makes a significant observation when he writes, “the desire for God ... is the most fundamental appetite of all.” God created us to live with Him and to enjoy His company. We need a living connection with Him as much as we need the air we breathe. He is the food and the drink our spirits crave. Psalm 34:8 commands, “Taste and see that the LORD is good” and declares “Oh, the joys of those who trust in Him!”

Do you have this craving hunger for the Lord? Is your every moment filled with a nagging desire to gain a closer relationship with Him? Then you are on the right track to enjoying the promises He has given us. Unfortunately, too many people don't have this desire. Too many are not even aware of what that nagging feeling, deep down in their souls, is all about. They, too, have the same need; the need to have a meaningful relationship with their Creator. They most often try to satisfy this craving with a wide variety of other people, places of enjoyment and things with the belief that these outside objects will satisfy their longings. Little do they know that nothing can replace or be a substitute for that missing relationship with God.

All of us, before coming to knowledge of our Lord and His wishes, had a craving for some kind of fulfillment. Some, the fortunate few, found that relationship with the Lord. *“My soul yearns for you in the night; in the morning my spirit longs for you. When your judgments come upon the earth, the people of the world learn righteousness.” (Isaiah 26:9)* They were taught and realized the truth of His holy Word that tells us all we need to know for an enriched and saving togetherness with Him. The many tend to believe God does exist, as it gives them someone to blame for their poor circumstances. It is easy to put the blame on a God they deny exists yet wanting nothing to do with Him and all He has already done for them. All too often people believe that although they don't want to believe in Him, they do want to believe that He is the cause of their temptations and sins. Look at what we are told in the book of James about tempting by God. *“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God,’ for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.” (James 1:13)*

Many of these God-blaming unbelievers have no real concept or belief in the true cause of their distress and their drive to fill the craving for God with unhealthy relationships, sinful practices and a myriad of things that can only give temporary fulfillment. We need to make every effort to bring these lost souls to an understanding of the true cause of their hardships, their trials and their lack of true peace and fulfillment; the devil. I truly believe that most people have the concept that this devil is very much only a scare tactic used on children to encourage them to behave. They have not taken the time to understand what God said about him in His Word; *“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 2But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.” (1 Peter 5:8-9)*

Yes, my friends, the devil, is very much real, alive and well. He is constantly, through our natural sinful desires, trying to deceive and turn us away from that true fulfillment of our cravings. He does not want anyone to come to knowledge of God and His love. *“But one whom you forgive anything, I forgive also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ, so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.”* (2 Corinthians 2:10-11) We have been forgiven our sins through the death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. He has given us the means and desire to appreciate that close relationship with the Father. We can know Him, commune with Him and eternally enjoy that which He wanted for us from the beginning of all things, oneness with our loving God.

Would that I could personally make all unbelievers see what my gracious God has done for me. He has done it also for all who want to believe. We need to get this message to all our youth hanging out at the malls and arcades with that burning hunger for what they don't know exists and for those adults down at the local pubs and taverns and worse. We, the believers, are the only ones that can get this message of salvation to these many lost souls before time runs out. *“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man”.* (Matthew 24:36-39)

Ask God's Holy Spirit to stir up their spiritual appetites until they decide to *“taste and see that the LORD is good.”* Remember how great He has been for us, the many blessings we enjoy. Be willing and anxious to give this same wonderment to those around you. Encourage them to... *“Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.”* Let them also rejoice and be glad in His many gifts.

As was clearly stated at Matthew 5:6; *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”*