



April 11, 2010

Give Thyself Wholly To Them

Paul the apostle instructs Timothy to be mindful of reading the scriptures, doing the things that he was able to do, some of which were gifts given by the Holy Spirit, and to pay careful attention to the doctrine. There are times when we look at others who have learned a new skill or developed an ability to do something and we might wonder how that came about. Paul gives some insight into how a Christian can be a success as he tells Timothy, “***Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them...***” (1 Tim 4.15). The question that we need to ask ourselves is whether we are really serious about being a Christian. Do we think that professing a love for Jesus and then living any way that we please will please the Lord? Have we really given our lives enough thought to picture what we are becoming in comparison to what God’s word has to say? Those are some basic questions but they seldom get asked and when they do, we might have a tendency to pass things over or make excuses for not doing better. There are ways that we can tell if we are on the right track. Do we study God’s word every day? Do we look forward to that? Do we enjoy meeting with God’s people. Do we look forward to that? If we hesitate to answer any of those questions positively then chances are we need to give these areas some thought. It’s easy to take God for granted. Religious folks just assume he’s there to help when trouble appears. God almost seems to a servant to mankind in the descriptions some give of what they think of the creator and his son. Therein lies a problem. We are indeed living in a world that is separated from God, faced with mortality and the stress of existence. Uncertainty is the norm in world that is filled with chaos and strife. So we do need God but we need to also remember who produced the ills of the world. Satan obviously has a very great part in the storms of life. From the beginning he tempted man to sin (Gen 3), caused conflict to result in bloodshed (Gen 4) and even spent great energy and time to try to kill the son of God. In our day and time to make matters worse his influence has resulted in so many false doctrines and variations of what the inspired scriptures teach that a growing number of individuals simply won’t bother as it’s too confusing. Satan takes on the appearance of a servant of God through the minions that he has to do his will in this world and sows confusion and discord where he is able. He has an ally though and unfortunately it is mankind. To that end God revealed his word, prepared the world, sent his son and preserved a record of it so that we might know the truth of our existence. Christ stated, “***And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.***” (John 8.32). Along the way Satan will try to fool and confuse us. He will throw obstacles in our path, many of them being enjoyable distractions that will occupy our attention and lull us into a false sense of security. Sound like a conspiracy theory? Sure, but it’s the real thing. How can we overcome and reach the goal? We have to fix our minds on one thing. We have to desire to know the truth and invest our time and energy into it. We will determine to go to the source, God, through his word as that is the only avenue that leads to an understanding of what he wants us to know. We will not accept substitutes that do not harmonize with the scriptures. We will not maintain relationships with those who seek to direct our path away from the goal. We will seek and associate with those who are looking to God, his word and the goal of a home in Heaven. We will endure the attitudes and snubs of others who may think of us as disturbed or ignorant. We will not allow anything to come between us and the practice of a living faith characterized by learning and doing. We will commit ourselves to working for God realizing that in the gift of salvation we already have the greatest and most valuable possession one could ask for. We will commit wholly to being what God wants us to be and not worry about what God is going to do for us because its done!

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