



June 27, 2010

*Microwave Mentality*

Our culture has been blessed with the advances and conveniences of technology that have come about over the past fifty to sixty years. As these innovations have become commonplace it seems that the overall effect may not be for the best. Not too long ago I was heating my morning Pop Tarts in a toaster. Prior to this I had been using a microwave. In the microwave the heating time was twenty seconds. In the toaster it took about two minutes but it was worth the wait as the outer shell was much crisper and remained hot longer. While preparing these one morning someone made a comment about how things took “forever” with the toaster. Overall I have observed that we have all become impatient with a lot of things. We expect problems to be solved in sixty minutes or less. We want our food to be ready in minutes rather than hours and we desire to reach our destination when driving as quickly as possible. The problem with this is that to do things right it takes time. To get somewhere safely we cannot drive at the speed we think we should be able to. When confronted with situations that demand more attention and need a long range solution we may turn away. Looking at the reasons why some in other countries succeed where we fail shows that they have learned to be patient. They have not lost the ability to concentrate and focus on a goal and they have not become addicted to the distractions that are the mainstay of so many lives. When it comes to being a Christian some may shy away from obeying the Gospel due to the amount of time and effort that will be required. It is far easier to say a short prayer, tell God and Jesus we love them or perform some other prescribed ritual that someone else tells us we need to do so we can continue on our way feeling relieved that we have gotten that taken care of. The path to Heaven is a long one and filled with work. We must realize that becoming a Christian means that we are willing to work for the Lord. Christ told his disciples, ***“The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.”*** (Matt 9.37-38). Christians are the laborers that are referred to here. Being a Christian entails and signifies a desire to serve the Lord. We realize that in serving him we are going to learn how to go about things the way that he would have us do them. How do we do that? Everything goes back to taking the time to read the book. That is what Paul told Timothy to do. ***“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*** (2 Tim 2.15). Much of the religious error and confusion that exists in the world is due to a lack of understanding and respecting God’s word. Some of the world’s greatest theologians in their writings have significant deficits in their understanding of the scriptures. Today millions are misled each year because they listen to convincing false teachers because they don’t read for themselves and hold others to the standard that God put in the world. One of the reasons is that folks just don’t want to take the time to learn. That is too time consuming. One of the characteristics that I have noticed of folks who really are able to concentrate on a subject is that they not only make time to study without distraction but they also seek out and meet with others who will be able to add to their knowledge and understanding of what they are learning about. Study groups are a way of meeting that need and the time spent is rewarding when one comes to an understanding or mastery of a subject. Paul adds a comment about this in his writing to Timothy as well. ***“Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.”*** (1 Tim 4.15). True learning and growth take time. The undoing of an old way of life may very well take the rest of one’s life, but the goal makes it worth the effort. In the day and age that we live in too many are in love with the quick fix and don’t have the time to devote to what is worth spending time with.

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