

ALL IN TO BUILD FOR OUR FUTURE

“The God of heaven Himself will prosper us: therefore we His servants will arise and build...So we built...for the people had a mind to work. A good person leaves an inheritance for their children’s children...” **Nehemiah 2:20; 4:6; Proverbs 13:22**
(NKJV)



This Week’s Thought – June 4, 2017

“Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it.” 1 Peter 3:10-11 (NIV)

1 Peter 3:10-11, quoting from Psalm 34:12-14, is a letter written to those ‘*who would love life and see good days.*’ At one level, this is a universal desire, is it not? Virtually everyone you meet wishes to have or desires to see some version of “**good days**,” seeking peace, joy, and meaning in the way in which they live their lives. In America this vision is even woven into the very fabric of our society, protecting for each citizen the right to “**life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.**” Yet, as universal as this desire may be, I think if we dig a little deeper, we may realize that making sense of this desire isn’t as simple as it might seem.

The wish to have or desire to see “**good days**” raises a series of tricky questions for us: how do we define “**good days**”? Is a good day for me the same as a good day for you? Perhaps more foundationally, the root question here is this: **what is your vision of the good life?**

As disciples of Jesus, there are core questions that we must wrestle with when talking about our vision of goodness and meaning in life. Has our vision of the good life been shaped by Christ’s teaching and witness? Is it motivated by our hope in His coming Kingdom and the mission He has given to each of us? Or, as is often the case, has our vision of the good life been more deeply formed by our shared cultural loves? Every day we are told where true meaning and joy in life can be found. Some say it is in the acquisition of wealth and material comfort. Others say it is in the pursuit of beauty and fitness. Still, others say it is in the quest for knowledge and expertise. It seems that defining the good life may be harder than we think!

For Christians, a vision of the good life is found when we keep ourselves rooted in the story of Jesus’ death and resurrection, and of His coming Kingdom. It is found in a life lived fully united to God and experiencing the blessing of His Presence, even in the midst of trial, suffering, or sorrow. The good life for Christians is not simply circumstantial happiness or carefree ease, but is instead rooted in the peace of knowing God and being known by Him. A truly good life knows the goodness and mercy of God and therefore rests secure in Him and trusts Him in and through every season of life.

If you know the love of God in Jesus Christ and are filled with His transforming grace, you are living the greatest life ever imagined!

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Dear God, help me daily to become aware of Your blessings. Help me to see the good that is all around me. Open up my eyes so that I may no longer be blind to Your continual gifts. Help me to be joyful and satisfied. I choose to no longer live in want, but to be showered with awareness of the blessings that I already have. I thank You most of all for the knowledge that I have my spiritual nature, which knows that I am fearfully and wonderfully made, and I am never alone. It is in You that I live, and move and have my being; thus is indeed the life that I desire and love! This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!”

“And then God answered: “Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run. This vision-message is a witness pointing to what's coming. It aches for the coming—it can hardly wait! And it doesn't lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It's on its way. It will come right on time.” Habakkuk 2:2-3 (MSG)

Yours in Christ, Pastor King