

The Word Says



Your Attention is Valuable

Working from 2 Corinthians 5:17, our devotional discussion invites us to reflect on the presence and role of change and how we have been changed by Jesus. A truth stated is that “even in the case of Christ’s work in us, the individual has to be willing to participate in the change and work to sustain it.” Jesus said His burden is light. Why then is it so hard to sustain the good work He began in us?

Whether we realize it or not, our attention is something that is very valuable. For instance, organizations worldwide go to great lengths to attempt to capture our attention for only a few seconds, often times costing them thousands of dollars.

In our world today, there are many things begging for our attention. And if we are not careful, we will allow the majority of our attention to be focused somewhere other than on Christ.

Take note of Psalm 86:11 through which David speaks out to inform us that God not only desires our mind’s attention, God also the attention of our heart. He implored, **“Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.”**

God doesn’t want to split our heart’s attention with anything else. But take note: there is a drastic difference between simply looking to God occasionally and focusing on Him constantly. The devil knows that if he can get our attention off of Christ, we will slowly begin to doubt God’s faithfulness, rather than rely on it.

What in your life needs to be minimized so that Christ can be maximized?

“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities- his eternal power and divine nature- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.” – Romans 1: 20

COVID-19 has dominated our attention this year and prompted changes. I take note that while some things have changed, God remains the same. Our need for God also remains the same. It is our need to look for God, recognize Him and follow Him, and follow Him wherever He leads.

The apostle Paul tells us that we are without excuse to recognize what our God is like. Not only has He made a way for us to know Him through His word, His son, Jesus, but He also displays His “eternal power and divine nature” in the beauty of the natural world. He is a God power and might, tenderness and beauty, and order and detail. A leaf caught my attention the other day, and I observed, “God with us!”

I attend with my mother her days undergoing chemotherapy. I see often what I previously have overlooked. Think about all you can learn about our God through:

- Observing the beauty of blooming flowers
- Listening to the sounds of quiet streams and roaring oceans
- Feeling the refreshment of water through tiny rain drops falling on your skin or by jumping into a lake
- Smelling the fragrance of the woods or freshly cut grass
- Touching the soft fur of a kitten or puppy

Sometimes when our experiences are smaller, simpler, less noisy, we see and hear things we often miss. Our Father’s created world offers us many glimpses into who He is. We can recognize Him if we look.

I confess, a la 2 Corinthians 5:17, “I am in Christ; the new creation has come: my old nature is gone, my new nature is here!” You who began a good work in me, thank you for the changes. Please continue. I am changed for the better. Jesus has changed my outlook on life. My attention is less worldly and increasingly caught up in the awareness of abiding love.

