

Monday, 20 July 2015

2 Corinthians 1:3-5 [1]

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

This short passage contains a valuable lesson in the ways of the Lord that we are called to obey. It also contains another example of the way God's Grace works. Another example of the LORD saying to His people. "Here's what I've done for you, now this is what I require from you in response."

He comforts me in **ALL** my afflictions, if I am willing to climb up out of my pity pot and join Him in His Work.

Tuesday, 21 July 2015

2 Corinthians 1:3-5 [2]

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

If, and that's a big if, I truly believe and trust that He uses **ALL** things for my good, one of my early reactions will be to look around for those with whom I can share God's comfort. That reaction is never that immediate, sometimes a very long time coming. My faith is weak! Lord, I believe, help me in my unbelief.

Wednesday, 22 July 2015

2 Corinthians 1:3-5 [3]

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

I need to learn to question my responses to suffering and trials.

Do I see them as a token of what Christ has gone through for me? Am I willing to share abundantly in the suffering? If not, why should I expect to share abundantly in His comfort? Is there another lesson here that I am to give thanks in **ALL** circumstances? And that is an obedience thing?

Thursday, 23 July 2015

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 [1]

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

The beginning of an obedience passage, but I've never seen it that way before. My work, those works of Ephesians 2:10, are all categorized as the work of reconciliation. It is another of the grace, faith, obedience sequence. All the work of Christ on the cross was to provide for the reconciliation of man to God. Now I am assigned to that task to carry His finished work to my neighbors. Every aspect of my life must be directed towards bringing all in my Personal Mission Field into reconciliation with the LORD.

Friday, 24 July 2015

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 [2]

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

God does not count my trespasses against me, "Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe" and I must not count the trespasses of those I minister to against them. Each of us is a sinner to whom grace has been extended.

This is especially a danger in prison ministry. The old man in me wants to know, has to know, finds clever and devious paths to finding out why an individual is in prison and then decides whether

or not this is someone worthy of my precious ministry time.

But the Word tells me that God does not count and neither should I, because He has entrusted me with the ministry of reconciling men and women to Him. Therefore, I must do it according to the guidelines He has established.

Saturday, 25 July 2015

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 [3]

*All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. **Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.***

I remember when someone in the early 1950s was posted as the Ambassador of the United States of America to the Court of St James, the British Empire. The newspaper of the time had a field day describing the high honor accorded to this individual. I no longer remember the man's name or even the president who made the appointment.

We are the Ambassadors of the Kingdom of God, posted to the Kingdom of Man. Our names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life for eternity. Let us strive to be called or found worthy of that posting. For ours is a far higher honor and one with far more responsibility than a posting to the Court of St. James.

Lord's Day, 26 July 2015

Psalm 119:169-172

Let my cry come before you, O LORD; give me understanding according to your word! Let my plea come before you; deliver me according to your word. My lips will pour forth praise, for you teach me your statutes. My tongue will sing of your word, for all your commandments are right.

This is very straight forward, Lord. There is a pairing between the understanding and deliverance that comes from You and the praise and song that is to come from me. As I gain in understanding of Your deliverance, my immediate response can only be praise and song.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Psalms



July 20-26, 2015

Voices Together is extracted from my daily meditations and is shared in the hope that others will be encouraged to turn to the Psalms as a rich source of guidance for prayer and meditation.

It is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, www.ailbe.org; along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ.

These messages can also be received as daily emails or in a monthly printed version by sending a request to:

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