

Wait On The Promises Of God

This date “9/11” may mean many things to many people but the primary thing to me is that my heavenly Father sent His daughter, Raquel, into the world on that day that He allowed me to marry nearly nine years ago. For that, this day will always stand out to me personally.

As a nation we have placed importance on this date due to the terrorist attack against our country and our way of life ten years ago today. The horror of this attack is the focus of many politicians, government officials, security workers and world leaders; but it is not to be the focus of citizens of The Kingdom of God. Though it is appropriate to show respect.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

The children of God, and if you have received Jesus as your savior you are a child of God

John 1:12-13 (NKJV)

¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

We need to keep our eyes on the Lord and the plans He has for us as we obey His Great Commandments and live our lives to fulfill His Great Commission! He has promised us fullness of joy (John 15:11). As we face each day's challenges we have to look only to Him, regardless of our surrounding circumstances, and He who has begun this good work in you, this work of faith, will be faithful to complete it! (Philippians 1:6) *He* does the impossible as we do what's possible and put all our focus, energy and effort into the call He has called each of us to. There are differences in our ministries but there is **one call** we are called to and that is to do all we do unto the Lord, for the glory of God, until the day He comes or the day we go to see Him.

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This is a message of hope to remind us, on this day that fills so many with dread, that we have been promised by the God of all creation that He will bring about all His promises for us, in His time, as we walk in obedience to His word and under the direction of His Holy Spirit.

So, other than all these wonderful promises of good things to come how are we to live? As the title of one of Chuck Colson's book says, "How Now Shall We Live?"

This evil that has come against our nation is from the author of all evil, Satan, who said to Jesus in the wilderness,

Matthew 4:3-4 (NKJV)

³ Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "**If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.**"

⁴ But He answered and said, "***It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'***"

That is how we are to live! By every word that proceeds from the mouth of God! So, we must read, memorize, meditate on and claim the promises held in those words day in and day out.

Psalm 1:1-3

¹ Blessed *is* the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ² but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. ³ He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.

These promises are for all His children for all time and He wants us to live by these principles every day so that He has an open door to our hearts, minds and lives to pour His blessings in to.

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How can we live this out in our day to day lives without a biblical world view? The answer is; we can't! The only way to live successfully in the kingdom of God is with a commitment to strive for, gain and keep a biblical worldview; seeing life through Christ colored glasses.

His promises only encourage you if you believe them.

If someone tells you they will “try” to do some favor do you place all your hope in that? Most of us realize that when someone says they will “try” it is giving them an out if they don't or “can't” follow through on the halfhearted promise they made in the first place. I like to say that when someone says they will try it is a “present promise of future failure.” As Jesus says, Matthew 5:37 (ESV) “Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.”

When Jesus speaks He doesn't tell you to try harder He says just do it! If you fail, He forgives you. Then do it without hesitation next time. If you forget, get back in His word and on your knees and ask Him for His help to do it right the next time. It doesn't matter how many times you make the effort and fail as long as you keep giving it your very best. He knows we are weak imperfect people! He wants to see our hearts pointed towards Him, aimed at His goal for our lives. That is a biblical worldview; looking at very thing in your life and asking the question what does Jesus think about this? What would Jesus do in this situation?

The only way we can adopt a biblical worldview is if we are in the word of God and on our knees in prayer on a regular basis, and in the fellowship of the saints. When we see world events we shouldn't ask the question, “What does this mean to me?” We should ask, “What does this have to do with Jesus Christ and His coming Kingdom?” That is having a biblical worldview.

So instead of looking at all the sin in the world and shaking our head or complaining that what is right is called wrong and what is wrong is called right and pontificating about it;

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“If people just knew the Lord!” we should be out there telling them about Him every way we are called to. We are each called to tell the world the good news, that’s what the Great Commission says, we are each to do it in the way He directs each one; each one does it as only they can! We don’t all write the same way, we don’t talk the same way we don’t all have the same life experiences so why do we think we should witness the same way?

Libraries can be filled with the books on how to evangelize this way or that, each one a formula that was created by one person that proposes to have others do it their way. Jesus proposes that we do it ... His way. By being filled with the power from on high, the Holy Spirit’s power, and then being **witnesses of what God has done in our lives** (keeping your spiritual eyes open) and telling it to others. The only way we can be or bear witness of what God has done in our lives is if we **pay attention to what He is doing** in our lives. A primary way is to look in His word as if we are looking in a mirror. As you read the word of God constantly ask yourself if your behavior lines up with what He is telling you it should be in His word. If He says “love your neighbor” ask yourself, “Am I loving my neighbor?” If you’re not, ask Him to help you obey His word and...love your neighbor! This should keep our minds on the things of God instead of on the “noise” we hear in the world around us that is trying to distract us from Him. Satan will use what ever he can to take our focus off a biblical worldview and put on our selves, our circumstances and our needs. “Me, me, me, me, me.....” No, it’s all about Jesus!

If He says, “Do it!” I’ll do it. If He says “Believe it!” I’ll believe it. If He says “Go!” I will go! If He says “Stop!”, I will stop! If He says, “Jump!” I will jump and it will always be high enough for the God who truly loves me.

If we keep our eyes and our focus on Jesus Christ, the Savior of our soul, who has a perfect plan for each one of us we will develop a biblical worldview as a way of thinking, a habit, and be way too busy to worry about all this terrorism and end times speculation.

There is a story of a boy on an ocean front beach after a great storm:

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This young boy was walking down the beach covered with thousands of starfish that had been dumped on the sandy shore by the heavy waves during the storm. Now, with calmer weather, he was walking along the beach picking up one starfish at a time and throwing them back into the sea. An old man saw him and called out to him, “You can never save them all!” The boy responded as he picked up the next starfish flinging it into the surf, “No, but I can save this one!”

It’s unlikely that any of us will be used by God to save all the lost people in Sanford, Springvale or even on our street but as the apostle Paul put it, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

¹⁹ For though I am free from all *men*, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; ²⁰ and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those *who are* under the law, as under the law, that I might win those *who are* under the law; ²¹ to those *who are* without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those *who are* without law; ²² to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some. ²³ Now this I do for the gospel’s sake, that I may be partaker of it with *you*.

We are in this together and together we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us!

Today, after service, we will meet at about 1:00 PM at the space we are considering moving into in January 2012 and for the immediate future, God willing and this congregation willing. We will vote as a congregation next week to see what your prayerful consideration is after a week of asking the Lord if it is His will.

Though the kingdom of God is not run by majority rule, but if we are in one Spirit, the Holy Spirit, we must always take one another into consideration. As of now we have but two leaders, Raquel and I, so I ask for a consensus. Please make sure you are here next week to place your secret ballot. New members’ classes will be the next two Monday nights. At 7 PM at our home.