



Northside Proclaimer

Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord

1 Thessalonians 1:8

Northside Church Of Christ Welcomes You!

March 27, 2016

Diligently Seeking God

Gary Henry

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6)

Our seeking of God must be diligent. What does this mean? It means that we must give ourselves to the quest for God with a priority and a passion that we don't invest in any other pursuit. God must be first in our hearts. We must be ready to sacrifice anything else -- indeed all else -- to see His face. Our hearts must be purged of any conflicting interest or competing desire. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8). In our longing for God we must be utterly sincere, and in our seeking of God we must be passionately committed. He deserves no less than our all.

God's making of the world is such that we find it necessary to seek and to search for Him, but in truth "He is not far from each one of us" (Acts 17:27). His hiddenness in this present broken world is not meant to hinder us from finding Him, but to entice us. As He whets our appetite for Himself, God is weaning us away from our sinful, self-sufficient rebellion. He is teaching us to love Him. With convicting evidences of His power and loving tokens of His goodness, He is drawing us toward His eternal presence. "I drew them with gentle cords, with bands of love" (Hosea 11:4). It is God's good pleasure to be found by all who long for Him in honest, obedient love.

God is not neutral with regard to the inclination of our hearts. He desires that we find Him. He yearns for those who delight in Him. "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (James 4:8). Yet there is a danger: we must not deceive ourselves that we are seeking God if in fact it is only certain blessings from God that we seek. Resisting the tendency to focus on ourselves, we must learn to seek Him, simply and contentedly. When we diligently do so, our reward will be God Himself and He will fill our deepest longings according to the design of His own love. Having sought God earnestly, we will be enriched by the joy of a heart that overflows with His glory.

Northside
church Of Christ

25 Greenfield Pike
Hillsboro, OH 45133

churchofchristatnorthside.com

Visit Us On Facebook!
Facebook.com/northsidehillsboro

Bryan Garlock
Evangelist

Office: 937.393.3634
Cell: 478.256.0325

preacher@churchofchristatnorthside.com

Announcements

- Remember the shut in's.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Remember the spiritual sick among us.
- Call or email Bryan to add announcements, thanks.
- **We need volunteers for door knocking. Please see Bryan.**
- **We need volunteers for picking folks up. Please see Bryan.**
- Make plans now to attend our gospel meeting! April 8th – 10th.

Five Day A Week Reading Plan

Mon: 1 Kings 10-14

Tues: 1 Kings 15-19

Wed: 1 Kings 20-2 Kings 2

Thurs: 2 Kings 3-7

Fri: 2 Kings 8-12

We Learn More from Losing Things

Gary Henry

“Better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for that is the end of all men; and the living will take it to heart” (Ecc 7:2).

To lose is to learn. Rarely do we part with anything valuable without growing in wisdom. Yet the experience of loss is one we usually resist and resent. If it's a choice between gaining and losing, we'd much rather be gaining. As for any losing we might have to do, we hope to defer that as long as we can. Nevertheless it's true: we learn more from losing things than we do from gaining them. So Solomon said that it's better to go to the “house of mourning” than the “house of feasting.” That will be our perspective during times of loss if our priorities are what they ought to be.

We humans are both “acquisitive” and “possessive” creatures, aren't we? We love to acquire — to get and to gain — and having acquired at least some of what we want in this world, we feel a sense of entitlement to it: This is mine. I possess it. It would be wrong for this to ever be taken away from me. We are loathe to part with anything we have acquired, whether our money, our possessions, our health, our pleasures, our privileges, or our relationships.

Yet in a “temporal” world, there is nothing that is not temporary. Do you understand what that means? It means that there is nothing that is yours to keep. Whatever you have, you are going to have to let go of it — except God. And I am not talking about what happens at death. If you live very long, you're going to part with most of what you enjoy before you die. And when the things you have cherished are taken away from you, one by one, you will grow in wisdom. You will learn more from losing things than you ever learned by gaining them. And what you will learn is that God is all you have to have. He is the only thing you can't do without.

If nothing ever changed and we were allowed to keep our situations and our relationships as long as we wanted, we'd soon forget about God. Our tendency is to try to “possess” the creation and pay little attention to the Creator. But knowing our nature, God lets us enjoy our boons and benefits for a while . . . and then takes them away from us. With every loss, He is teaching us to fix our hearts on Him. So let me ask you: looking at life like that, is losing what you love in this world good or bad? You be the judge.