PARCHIENI AND HE SAID UNTO ME, WRITE: FOR THESE WORDS ARE TRUE AND FAITHFUL.

REVELATION 21:5

1 KINGS 18:30 Restitution Mimistries

There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand. Proverbs 19:21

A REASON FOR TOMORROW

There are certain phrases we hear throughout our lives that stay with us forever. For me, one of the most salient comes from a conversation with my grandfather. My grandfather is a composed, content, and generally happy man. When I was a little girl, I tried to encourage him to give up smoking. I stressed the fact that smoking causes disease which can result in death. What I wasn't expecting was the lightheartedness of his response, and the fact that he genuinely believed what he was saying. Accompanied by a short, familiar chuckle came the words: "die today, die tomorrow, same thing." At that moment, I was struck by the magnitude of his statement. Indeed, I've been struck by it ever since. I disagreed with him at the time. But today, when someone asks me why I'm a Christian, that sentence appears in the fringes of my mind.

If there wasn't a God, what purpose would there be for this life? What difference would it make if a man who didn't exist for millions of years, died at age 30 or at age 70, and then similarly ceased to exist for the succeeding millions of years? Yes, his loved ones would miss him at the time, but they also would soon die. So in the grand scheme of things, what reason would there be for his life? The truth is, whether he died today, or died tomorrow, it would really be the same thing.

For those without God, fame might seem a suitable answer to this dilemma. One might achieve great things in their life and thus leave a legacy to be remembered by for centuries. But according to statistics, only 0.008% of living people today have acquired fame. So is this really a valid answer to the pursuit of purpose for all mankind? How does this strategy weigh up with the poor and suffering on the streets of third world countries? Would the dream to 'be ambitious and make it big' answer their cry? This kind of reasoning only highlights the injustice and corruption of the world.

It's for this same reason that the purpose of life must be universal. There must be a real incentive and hope available to every person living on earth today. And it must refute the adage of my grandfather, who, while seemingly happy, had given up on life without ever experiencing the purpose God ordained.

In my search, I discovered that the Bible offers not one, but two answers to this ageless problem.

First, we're given the opportunity to conquer death and gain access into eternal life, that we might pronounce: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?". 1 Corinthians 15:55. Indeed, Jesus promises that "he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live". John 11:25. And King Solomon also affirms this by saying: "The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning a person from the snares of death." Proverbs 14:27 (NIV). In summary, the first strain of God's

purpose for mankind is to "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called". 1 Timothy



6:12. This is a calling which goes forward to all the world, to every man, woman, and child. It is universal. For Jesus declared that when he would die, he would draw all men unto Himself. John 12:32.

Second is the ability to share this truth with others, that they too might be filled with abounding hope and purpose, despite any difference in circumstance. Before he ascended to heaven, Jesus instructed his followers to "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15. The following verse reveals the reason for this commission and the sacredness of it. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." Mark 16:15-16. It's eternal life that's at stake. Hence, "no man or woman who is converted can be anything but a worker" for Christ, to win the souls of the world. {OHC 223} And this very fact, that "we have a work to do for the Master", no matter "what our position may be or how limited our capacities," is also what imbues this purpose universal meaning. {OHC 186}

Moreover, this two-fold purpose is the only one which offers a full and complete sense of contentment and peace. Sister White writes: "I have seen that those who live for a purpose, seeking to benefit and bless their fellow men and to honor and glorify their Redeemer, are the truly happy ones on the earth, while the man who is restless, discontented, and seeking this and testing that, hoping to find happiness, is always complaining of disappointment. He is always in want, never satisfied, because he lives for himself alone." {OHC 64}

But with regard to the consecrated, working Christian, she further describes: "It is indeed joy so pure, so deep, that language cannot express it.... Those only who have experienced happiness resulting from self-denying effort in the service of Christ can speak of the matter understandingly." {OHC 186}

While we are to live as though each day were our last, not knowing when our time is up, there is certainly a reason for tomorrow. Tomorrow, there are souls to reach. Tomorrow, there are prayers to pray. Tomorrow, there is a God to praise. In the grand scheme of things, there is a reason for your life. God wants to use you. He wants to entrust you with a sacred work. He wants to give you peace now and eternal life to come. Only let us remember, that "the great purpose that constrained Paul to press forward in the face of hardship and difficulty should lead every Christian worker to consecrate himself wholly to God's service. Worldly attractions will be presented to draw his attention from the Saviour, but he is to press on toward the goal, showing to the world, to angels, and to men that the hope of seeing the face of God is worth all the effort and sacrifice that the attainment of this hope demands." {OHC 371}

Amen.

What's New?

Please visit the new page of our website: RM Kenya

https://www.acts321.org/rm-kenya This page will be updated regularly with news from Peter Hewitt, photos and testimonies from workers and converts, and general updates.



Also visit our new page: Books for New Believers <u>https://www.acts321.org/books-for-new-believers</u> With books by Joe Crews and others on a variety of topics, this is the perfect place to direct your friends who are new to the gospel message.



A newly edited sermon by Brother Bill Pinto on the topic of forgiveness has been dug up from 2004 and is now available for viewing via this link: <u>https://vimeo.com/211218037</u>