

Stewardship Discipling Team August 2016 Council Devotions

Generous People Living God's Love "by" Remembering who we are as God's People

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; ²but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. ³They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

Psalm 1:1-3

Several years ago, when my oldest son was still in High School, I was in the sacristy getting ready for Sunday worship. My son entered and informed me that he had not slept the night before and was scheduled to work the 1-10 shift at the local mini-mart. He was seeking permission to go home and nap before work.

I was sympathetic with his predicament but I wanted him to make the choice of which path to follow. He obviously knew he was expected in worship and yet he also wanted to sleep. I did not say no but I also did not say yes. My son did not want me to choose for him but I was to choose the option he wanted. So we bantered back and forth until he stated that if I made him stay in church he would sleep through the service. I responded by saying that if he did stay God would honor him. He stayed.

My son took a seat in the front row of the balcony where he knew I would see him but the congregation would not. He did stay awake throughout the whole service. After all was done at the church I drove him to work (his car was in need of repair). At 10 pm I went to pick him up and asked if God had kept the promise. He responded that God did in fact come through.

Like my son, many of us forget what God can do for us. We get so busy that we think there is no time for prayer, Bible reading and worship. We reason that God knows how busy we are and will forgive us for skipping these great resources. We say to ourselves, "God will understand." I am not confident that God does.

Prayer, Bible reading, worship, etc. are some great ways that God is able to give us new life. We are renewed in body, mind and spirit. When we take the time to practice these spiritual disciplines God will honor that choice with the gift of life. We are better prepared for the tasks of the day than we would be if we faced them alone.

I am not suggesting that we eliminate sleep from our daily routine. I am suggesting that when we practice a stewardship of our time that includes time with God, we are blessed with a source of life that exceeds our limitations. Honor God and God will honor you.

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