

Consider Him

By Rebecca L. Troup

Consider Him

*For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself,
lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. -Hebrews 12:3*



To my family for their constant support and encouragement.
To my Lord for knowing me, yet loving me.

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Does God Remember?

Tuesday, August 03, 2010

One of God's divine attributes is that He is All-Knowing. This is called Omniscience. It means that He knows EVERYTHING and has no need to learn anything. God's knowledge is infinite and it is IMPOSSIBLE to hide anything from God....But CAN He forget??

First of all, let's see what He remembers. The Bible says numerous times that "He remembered His covenant". That is the covenant He made with Abraham, which was unconditional so God could not break it. There are a few people mentioned in the Bible that God remembered. "God remembered Noah" in Genesis 8:1. "God remembered Rachel" in Genesis 30:22. Of Hannah, the Bible says, "the Lord remembered her". (1 Sam. 1:19) Psalm 103:14 says, "For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we [are] dust".

Now we know God knows everything, but can He forget?

As far as the east is from the west, [so] far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Psalm 103:12

I, [even] I, [am] he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins. Isaiah 43:25

For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. Isaiah 65:17 (speaking of the future Kingdom)

For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. Hebrews 8:12

Yes, there are times when God CHOOSES to forget!

Are You Watching Or Sleeping??

Thursday, August 05, 2010

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words. But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we

should live together with him. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do." I Thessalonians 4:16-5:11

There is SO MUCH in this portion of Scripture and I do NOT pretend to know all that can be learned here! There are two different groups of people that stand out to me here. There are those who are "watchers". These are the ones looking for Christ. Then there are the "sleepers". These are the ones not looking for Christ.

If you are a watcher, you KNOW the Lord is going to come as a thief in the night (v2), therefore you are always looking for Him. If you are a watcher, you are sober (v6,8) and you have faith, hope, love, and comfort (v8, 11). If you are a watcher, you are a child of light (v5).

If you are a sleeper, you expect to have peace and safety (v3) throughout your life. If you are a sleeper, you will find sudden destruction and travail (v3) and you will not be able to escape. If you are a sleeper, you are sleeping (obviously!) and drunk (v6-7). If you are a sleeper, you are a child of darkness (v5).

These are interesting contrasts. I hope to be a "watcher" ready for my Lord to return. "Work for the night is coming!"

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality." I Corinthians 15:51-53

Putting Others Before Yourself

Monday, August 09, 2010

The Amazing Bomb Story

My grandmother lived in Warsaw, while her family lived in Chelm. It was September 1939, and it had just been announced that Germany had invaded Poland. There was a mad scramble to get out of Warsaw as it fell victim to relentless German bombing. No inklings of 'Holocaust' or genocide were developed, it was merely a time when every Polish citizen tried to run, hide and contact family. My grandmother was one such Pole.

She decided to try to get to Chelm to see her family and take them with her safely to Russia. She was a devout Communist. She had been involved in smuggling communist propaganda into Poland, against strict Government rules and hatred of the Communist regime. She told me that she had once had the audacity to post a communist poster directly behind a polish soldier/guard standing in the street. If she was caught, immediate prison. However, she safely got away and people walked past the soldier and saw the poster, laughing on their way at his failure to see the catch onto the trick.

Anyway, on one of her dashes around the city as she prepared to go to Chelm, the sirens began to wail and foretold of the coming bombing raid. As always, there was someone willing to provide shelter in the basement for the public who got stranded when the sirens sounded. It was a fairly civic minded Poland at that stage. She was huddling in the basement of someone's house, and could hear the bombs falling all around her. For someone of my generation it is difficult to imagine the fear of the bomb-lottery.

It is said that if you hear the sound of a bomb, you can breathe a sigh of relief. It has exploded already and you have heard it. It was this feeling of complete balance in the hands of luck, and complete terror and impending doom, that blanketed all in this house

(and certainly many other houses). Many houses in the immediate area were being demolished, along with their huddled occupants.

As she huddled, a sudden terrible crash and shake enveloped the house. They had obviously been hit. There was a perceivable moment between the initial impact and the time the bomb ripped through the floors of the house. But then, no explosion. This was the real moment of terror. They had definitely been hit, but the bomb had yet to go off. Surely a matter of moments, incalculably long moments, until the inevitable massive trauma of the shrapnel and heat ripping through the house and themselves.

But more moments passed. Nothing happened. There was the faint sound of whimpering, crying and huddling. The sound that only people can make when they are too frightened to make noise. Slowly, the huddling strangers got up and gingerly moved about. It took about 2 minutes to locate the unexploded shell. Everyone had a sense of where it had fallen. It was big and shiny, and had broken into several pieces on impact. Perhaps this is what it was supposed to do.

The more brazen of the bunch touched the metal pieces, and found that there was no material, powder or explosive inside. Indeed, it was an empty shell. However, there was something. A piece of card or paper had survived the impact, and lay in between two of the broken pieces. The brazen man picked it up and found that it contained some scrawled German. One of the bunch read it, and translated it into Polish - "This is the best that we can do."

No-one knows who wrote it, but we all know why. Some decent person or persons in the German war machine was doing their bit to stop the waste of human life about to occur with the dropping of the bomb.

In Jewish experience, time and time again, it has been said, "If not for this, then I wouldn't be here!" Now I have my own "if not for" and there is a person or persons to thank, but I'll never know who.~... *Story can be found online*

I personally found this story to be amazing. As Christians, we know that the REAL person to thank is the Lord Jesus Christ Who ultimately gives life.

*The person who did this was not thinking of himself, but of whom he could help. This has hit home with me lately because I don't know about you, but I am a very selfish individual. We are told in God's word, "...let each esteem other **better** than themselves" (Phil 2:3b).*

I want to make a difference in other people's lives. As a Child of God, are you doing for others? There is much that can be done for our Lord if we will put Him first, then others, then ourselves. Think about it!

Do You Really Mean That???

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil. Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few~Ecclesiastes 5:1-2

I don't know about you, but EVERY TIME I sing the song "I Surrender All", I get convicted

by the words. "All to Jesus I surrender. All to Him I **FREELY** give. I will **EVER** love and trust HIM. In His presence **DAILY** live." I'll be honest here and tell you that I do not FREELY give Him everything. Sometimes I have bitterness or hurts that I like to hold on to for myself. Sometimes I think I may tell God, "Lord you can have it all as long as you don't TAKE it all (meaning all of my *stuff*)". If I don't read my Bible daily and seek Him, how can I honestly sing the part about "in His presence DAILY live"?

What about this song? "My Jesus I love thee. I know thou art mine. For thee **ALL THE FOLLIES OF SIN I RESIGN**"? Do we really? Hmmn..."I'm pressing on the upward way. New heights I'm gaining everyday. Still praying as I onward bound, 'Lord plant my feet on higher ground'." How can we sing "Sweet hour of prayer", when the only time we spend praying is thanking God for our meal? "I'd rather have Jesus *than silver or gold*"? **REALLY??** Here's just one more, "Redeemed how I love to proclaim it". Do we really **LOVE to proclaim it?** Do we take **EVERY opportunity** to reach the lost with the Good News??

These are just some questions that are in my mind. The sad truth is that many of us Christians are lying when we sing these songs. I propose that if we cannot sing these words honestly, maybe we should just hum along with the music. :-)

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer. Psalm 19:14

Are You Spreading The Gospel?

Wednesday, August 11, 2010

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. John 3:36

It is not politically correct or even popular to tell people that without Christ they will die in their sins. However, the Bible is not a politically correct book. The Bible is God's Holy Word and **EVERY WORD** of it is true! Imagine when the Rapture does occur (I Thess. 4:16-17). There will be millions, maybe billions, of people that will be left behind. If you are born-again, it is your **DUTY** to tell others about the Saviour. Time is short (I Cor. 15:52) and death is certain if the Lord tarries. We **MUST** tell others about Jesus while there is yet time. We **MUST** stop fighting amongst ourselves and fight for Christ! "He that believeth not **SHALL NOT SEE LIFE; BUT THE WRATH OF GOD ABIDETH ON HIM.**" Look at your friends, neighbors, church members, your own children...will the wrath of God abide on them? Will they see life? God doesn't need us, but we need **HIM**. He commands us to spread the Good News (the Gospel). Let's get busy today! "Work for the night is coming!"

But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. I Corinthians 15:57-58

What Do Stay-At-Home Moms Do All Day?

Saturday, August 14, 2010



sorry about the size! I was trying to get it where you can read it. If you click on the image, you may be able to read it better :-)

I saw this on a friend's facebook wall. Sorry if it is hard to read. No, it doesn't have ANYTHING to do with a Bible verse today, but it does have to do with me. This lady's (the questioner) idea of motherhood is sadly shared by many people. There are many who believe that a stay-at-home mother is a "leech" on society. It is wonderful that as Christians, we don't have to serve society and it's demands. Our only goal is to serve the One Who is truly WORTHY! If you are a stay-at-home mother, don't look down on the mothers who HAVE (*some really don't*) to have outside jobs. [I don't like to say "have to work", because if you are a SAHM, then you KNOW you have to work!] We do however tend to look down on those who are not doing what WE THINK they should be doing. God help us! If you are blessed to be able to stay at home with your little blessings, make sure you are not wasting any time sitting around reading books and eating bonbons :-). You can serve the Lord by training your children to serve Him. The task is not easy! It is a lifelong goal, but it can be reached by God's grace. We are in this fight together. *Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Ephesians 5:16*

Magnify The Lord With Me!

Monday, August 16, 2010

O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together. Psalm 34:3

I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving. Psalm 69:30

"To make great in representation; to extol; to exalt in description or praise" (Webster's 1828 Dictionary) The purpose of this blog is to bring glory and honor to our Lord Jesus Christ. To magnify His name is the goal. All praise belongs to the One Who, in humility, came to this earth. He lived a pauper's life and died on a cruel cross to pay our sin debt. He didn't stay there though! He arose from death triumphant! He is seated at the right hand of the Father making intercession for you and I. He is worthy to be praised and magnified.

How can a child of God magnify Christ? We do it by giving glory to Him and praising Him! Are you saved by grace through faith? Praise His name! Are you free from sin? Praise His name! Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb? Praise His name! Are you redeemed? Praise His name! Are you sanctified to God? Praise His name! Are you free

to worship Him? Praise His name! Do you have His Word? Praise His name! (*I didn't even mention the physical blessings He gives to us!*) Do you magnify Him?

Do others see Him clearly in you?

Life is full of trial upon trial and heartache upon heartache. You won't have a smile ALL the time, but you can have joy in the LORD. If your joy is in anything or anyone or any circumstance, you will lose it because those things change. If your joy is in the Lord Jesus Christ, come what may, you will not lose it because He never changes. You can praise Him even through the storms of life. You can praise Him even in death. Come on, Let us magnify the Lord together!

[on a side note, check out Psalm 138:2~**He** magnifies His Word **above** His name!]

Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation say continually, The LORD be magnified. Psalm 40:16 & Psalm 70:4

"You're Just Like Your Daddy!"

Friday, August 20, 2010

Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? **he that hath seen me hath seen the Father**, and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father? John 14:9

I used to play basketball when I was in high school. I was an average player. My father, on the other hand, was a great basketball player. One day in practice, I was running to the goal and I threw a crazy hook shot! Joy of joys, it went in! "Nothing but net!" My coach said, "*you play just like your father*".

If you know my husband, then you know that he is **JUST** like his father. If you know my daughter, you know that she is **JUST** like her daddy.

The above verse was Jesus talking to His disciples. He was telling them, "if you have seen me, **then you have seen my father**". When you receive Christ as your Savior, then God the Father becomes your spiritual Father. (Rom. 8:16) Did you know that God is your spiritual *Daddy*? (Rom. 8:15)

When others see you, do they see your Father? Do they know that you belong to **HIM**? There will always be scoffers and naysayers who will never see good, even when the truth is in front of their faces. Jesus talked about them too. (John 8:44) He could tell who their father was by their works.

When God the Father sees us, He knows if we belong to Him. He sees either pure righteousness (that's His Son's righteousness), or He sees our **UN**-righteousness (that's the filthy rags in Isaiah 64:6). God knows and so should other people. They should see us and say, "She belongs to Jesus." It is to our shame when others can't tell who our father truly is. It is to our shame when they see us and say, "if she's a Christian, I don't want any part of that!" So again I say, to Whom do you belong? Are you just like your Daddy? No, you cannot be perfect until you get to glory, but you should be growing more like **Him** everyday.

MY God is SO Big!

Friday, August 20, 2010

And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD **his** God. I Samuel 30:6

The video above is of my kids singing about how BIG our God is. It is just a reminder to you that if God is **YOUR** God, then you can be encouraged. He is in control. He is mighty to save. He is all-powerful. He is unchanging. I could go on and on and never fully describe just how awesome our God is! He is the same God that parted the Red Sea. He's the same God that defeated the Israelites' enemies. He's the same God that came here as a man and died for our sin. He's the same God that arose from the grave. He's the same God that saved us so graciously. He's still God. **You can trust HIM!**

Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. I Cor. 1:25

Made Sin For Me!

Tuesday, August 24, 2010

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. 2 Corinthians 5:21

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6

Today, as I was recounting the horror of the Crucifixion to my daughter, I was reminded of our Saviour's love for me. With tears streaming down my cheeks, I told my five year old how much Christ loved those who were mocking, cursing and laughing at Him. She said, "Mom, why are you crying?" "Because Jesus loved us SO MUCH that He stayed took our sin on Himself and suffered just so we could be reconciled to God." My daughter asked me why the people there hated Him so much. That is a good question. Why do they hate Him now?



My daughter asked me another question. "Mom, why didn't Jesus get down from the cross?" That is the same question the scoffers at the foot of Calvary asked. I told her it was because He loved THEM and He loves US so much that He stayed there.

If you are born-again, the Crucifixion is a familiar story to you. I must confess that I don't think about it as often as I should. I'm thankful for the Lord allowing me to REMEMBER what He did today! If you know me, you know I'm rotten to the core. I cannot understand why the King of Glory would take MY sin upon Himself, but Hallelujah He did! Imagine if you can, what all our sin must be like to a Holy God! If you are saved, I hope and pray that you will take a moment today to thank Him for doing that for you as well.

By the way, don't forget to thank Him for rising from the dead three days later! Praise Him for being a Living God! He's seated at the right hand of the Father (Heb. 8:1) making intercession for YOU! (Heb. 7:25)

Robert Laidlaw said it this way, "Christ once crucified is now our living Saviour. He died to save us from the penalty of sin and now He lives to deliver us from the power of sin." Laidlaw also states, " God, against whom we have sinned, in justice sat upon His judgement throne and passed the heaviest penalty He could – the sentence of death upon the sinner. Then, in mercy, He stepped from His throne and in the person of His Son took the sinner's place, bearing the full penalty Himself, for 2 Corinthians 5:19 tells us that "God was in Christ" – not through Christ but in Christ – "reconciling the world unto Himself".

Christ's Joy In You

Friday, August 27, 2010

These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. John 15:11-12

Here Jesus is teaching in the previous verses that **IF** you abide in Him and in His word, then you will bear fruit (Jn. 15:5) and you also can ask anything (Jn 15:7) and He will do it. The *key word* is "abide". You cannot just pick the parts of His word that you like and obey them. You must obey **ALL** of His word. If His words abide in you, then you will not ask for something contrary to Him and His words. He said these things verse eleven tells us, so that HIS joy "might remain" in us! Imagine that! *The joy of Jesus Christ in YOU!* I've spent much of my life living in defeat from the chains of depression and guilt. The misery of depression is a battle that rages in many, many people all around us. If you have never lived in this prison, then you cannot rightfully tell someone to just "**get over it!**". If you have never been in their place, then you lack understanding. I can say though, as a survivor of depression, that *V-I-C-T-O-R-Y* can be won and is only *lasting* in Christ. God's Word is ALWAYS true and is ALWAYS applicable to us *today*. If you are down, there is joy to be found in Christ Jesus. He may not change your circumstances, but you can rest in Him and His promises to you. Verse twelve tells us the *secret* to finding joy in Christ. It says, "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." That is how you do it! Serve others before you serve you. Think of others before you think of you. Love others more than you love you.

This goes **TOTALLY** against the flesh and can really only be done by allowing Christ to mold you into His image. Ask Him today to begin to soften your heart to His Word and seek opportunities to be a blessing to others. Serving others brings true and lasting joy. **J~Jesus O~Others Y~you!!!**

Jesus' Peace

Thursday, September 02, 2010

These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. John 14:25-27

Have you ever been in a crisis and had **ABSOLUTELY** no peace? It doesn't matter how many sermons we hear or how much Bible we read, we **always** tend to forget what God has promised to us. God's Word is full of promises. There are promises to individuals. There are promises to nations. There are promises to believers. The promises to believers are for you and I if we are washed in the precious blood of the Lord Jesus

Christ.

Here in these verses, Jesus is saying that *ANOTHER* Comforter would come. To us that Comforter is the Holy Spirit of God. He *REMINDS* us of God's promises and all that is taught in His Book. Why do we need reminders? We need them because it is human nature to try to "*fix*" things on our own. We need to be reminded that Jesus is *ALIVE* and He can help if we will but trust Him.

One more thing to consider here is peace. The passage says, "*MY peace* I give unto you". Can you believe that? *JESUS' peace!!!* Isn't that awesome?! It's not just a piece of peace, but *HIS PEACE!* He doesn't force it on you, but it is available to you when you believe His words and trust on Him. He did not say that He would remove your crisis situation, but you *CAN* have peace *IN* your crisis situation. He is not up in Heaven biting his nails because of the bad happenings down here. He is in total control of the situation and He wants His followers to have *HIS PEACE.*

Are You CareFUL???

Friday, September 03, 2010

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Philippians 4:6-8

This is probably a very familiar passage to you, but I want to consider it for a moment if I may. The verse says, "*Be careFUL for nothing*". We get all messed up and lose our peace and joy because we are *FULL* of care. We fail to take *EVERY* care to Jesus. We think that we will not bother Him with the *small* things, we will take care of them for ourselves. That is when we get *FULL* of care!

You cannot have the "peace of God" until you are empty of care. You can have peace *WITH* God and be *FULL* of care. There are many Christians who live with anxiety and fear daily because they have lost the peace of God.

Look with me for a moment at Mark 4:36-38: "And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships. And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it *was now full*. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?" The disciples waited until their ship was full to ask Jesus for help. They waited until they could not handle the problem to ask for help. How often do we fail to go to Jesus with *EVERY* care?

I want to encourage you today to take your every care to Jesus. He is ready and willing to go through the storms of life *WITH* you and to give you His peace. You can trust the Lord!

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. I Peter 5:6-7

"Be angry, and sin not"

Saturday, September 04, 2010

"Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath" Ephesians 4:26

This is simple to read and often hard to obey. When you are walking in the flesh, the spirit of anger rises up and words are spoken that should never be uttered. Apologies are made, but the hurt is never forgotten or put away. You CAN be angry, but if you are controlled by your flesh you will quickly sin.

Here's a few things you can do when faced with anger:

1. IMMEDIATELY seek the LORD to help you! Just stop whatever you are doing and ask for help.
2. Walk away. If you are dealing with children and you get really angry, leave the room until you can calm down. Often our children respond how they have seen their parents respond.
3. NEVER allow yourself to go to bed angry. Sleep will be hard to find because of your troubled Spirit. You may not be able to remedy the situation, but you can walk in the Spirit and display Christlike character.

Always remember that if you belong to Christ, the Holy Spirit of God resides in you to keep you from sin. (Jn. 14:26) Ask Him to help you live in such a way that the lost around you will want to know Jesus because of the great peace within you.

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32

Hope

Tuesday, September 07, 2010

Hope deferred maketh the heart sick:

but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life. Proverbs 13:11

Have you ever had your heart set on something and that "something" did not happen? I remember being a kid and hoping my parents would take my sister and I to the fair. We wanted to go, but we did not get to go. I felt brokenhearted.

Sometimes the same thing happens when we get married. We are hoping for a match "made in Heaven", only to find out that we haven't married an angel! Some people can never get over that realization that Mr. Perfect is NOT perfect and it makes them literally heartsick.

God's Word tells us that we have a lively hope (I Pet. 1:3), a better hope (Heb. 7:19), and a blessed hope (Titus 2:13). There are things worth hoping for! Our faith in Jesus Christ is our hope! He will not disappoint us! He's coming again and of that we can be certain. (I Thess. 4:13-14; I Jn. 3:2-3)

So, my question to you today is, what are you hoping for? If your hope is in Christ Jesus, you will serve Him with your life (I Jn. 3:3). If your hope is in Him, you may get discouraged, but you will not be defeated for long. (Ps. 42:5, 11) There may be times and circumstances that keep you down, but look to God and trust Him. Praise Him as long as you have breath because He is worthy to be praised.

The last part of our verse says, "but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life" (Prov. 13:11b). There is a "tree of life" in the New Jerusalem. The Bible tells us in Revelation 22, "In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, ..." You cannot eat of the tree of life if you are not in the new city. You cannot go to the new

city if you are not washed in the blood of Christ.

When you place your hope ("*Confidence in a future event; the highest degree of well founded expectation of good; as a hope founded on God's gracious promises; a scriptural sense.*" ~Webster's 1828) in Christ, when He (*our desire*) comes, you will find a tree of life. Think about that! **He is our HOPE!**

Putting It Into Practice

Friday, September 10, 2010

Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Philippians 2:3

When you read a verse like this, how do you put it into practice in the day in which we live? Here's a few suggestions...

1. ***Think about others***. Sounds simple huh? Often times it is easier said than done. Think about how you would like to be treated and how you would like your family members to be treated, then treat others in that way. Ask the Lord to help you to think about others' needs before your own. I know that is not popular these days with every thing made for *YOUR* immediate comfort, but it is the way of Christ. His followers should follow His example right?

2. ***Talk about the Saviour***. My mom is my hero. She is *ALWAYS* talking about our Lord and what *HE* has done. It is an inspiration to me to hear her give Him glory no matter what circumstance she finds herself in. Her family members hate it and through the years have berated her. They say, "you think you are better than everyone!" "All you talk about is the Lord!" "You are such a hypocrite!" I know, I know! With "friends like that, who needs enemies?" Here's something to consider. Have you received Christ as your personal Saviour? If you have, then ***He is a part of you***, just as a husband and wife are joined at the soul. If He is a part of you, how can you go a whole day without talking about Him? In my opinion, unthankfulness begets apostasy. If you cannot be thankful for what Christ did for *YOU* at Calvary, then you have a serious problem and I urge you to get it settled with Him now!

3. ***Take the Good News with you***. My husband is *SO* good at sharing the Gospel. He leads our family by his example. He always has a box of tracts to give to someone and he will not leave a store until he has passed out every tract that he took in. Why does he do that? He is concerned about the souls of others. I will be honest and say that I often am in a hurry. I tend to forget that those I come in contact with have a soul that will spend eternity somewhere. It is the responsibility of *EVERY* Christian to share the Gospel. If you have not been doing it, I suggest you get started! We all have a part in this! Let's tell the world the Good News about Christ and His love!

Creating Your Own Jesus

Saturday, September 11, 2010

I have been thinking about this topic for the good part of a year now. It amazes me how *SO MANY* claim to be born again, yet there is *NO* change in their lives. I know what you are thinking. Who are *YOU* to judge? Me? I am a *NOBODY*! I am just a girl that one night found my soul arrested by Christ's love for *ME*. When I think of what He did for me, I cannot help but strive to live for Him. Don't get me wrong! I am *NOT* saying that a person cannot go back to "Egypt", but if they have truly trusted in the shed blood of Christ they *CANNOT* stay there.

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