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Daily Devotional - Friday, September 28, 2018 - The God Who Meets All Needs

SEPTEMBER 28TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Friday, September 28, 2018 - The God Who Meets All Needs

Ephesians 1:3-8

FRIDAY

28

People tend to divide life into categories, distinguishing between issues related to work, home, faith, and leisure. Yet that's not how the Lord sees us. His interest in His children is not confined to spiritual matters; He cares about the details of daily living as well.

Scripture shows that God is in the business of keeping our bodies fed (Luke 12:29), our minds wise (James 1:5), and our hearts at ease (Phil. 4:7). And since believers are in union with Jesus Christ through His indwelling Spirit, every aspect of a Christian's existence has a spiritual connection. There's no time in the day when the believer's life separates into "sacred" and "secular" components. The anxious heart that distracts us from prayer is as much God's concern as the tired mind that easily drifts into temptation.

Scripture emphasizes God's commitment to the believer's whole self: "His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3). The Lord doesn't limit Himself to building godliness in us. Day-to-day particulars of life matter, too. We need never wonder if God can or wants to meet our needs. Our all-sufficient Father, whose kindness never ceases (Lam. 3:22), gives believers whatever is required to grow their faith—whether that means food, comfort, knowledge, or peace.

The loving heavenly Father sees His children in their entirety, not physical beings with a spiritual life on the side. We cheat ourselves when we think God is interested solely in our spiritual needs. He has many kinds of blessings to offer, if we will but ask.

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Daily Devotional - Thursday, September 27, 2018 - Trust God for Your Needs

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THURSDAY

Jim saved for a long time to take an Alaskan cruise. At last he was on board with two carefully packed suitcases. The first evening, when he heard “Dinner is served” announced over the loudspeaker, he took peanut butter crackers from his suitcase and sat at the table in his small cabin. Every day at mealtime, he repeated the ritual. It wasn’t that Jim didn’t like the ship’s tasty banquets. He simply didn’t know that his meals were included in the price of the ticket. For two weeks he enjoyed beautiful scenery and wildlife off the decks but ate dry, stale food in his cabin.

This sad story is a metaphor for the way some believers follow Jesus. God has promised to meet His children’s every need—His boundless riches are included in the price Christ paid for their salvation (Eph. 1:18). Yet many folks are instead trying to live out of their own resources. They don’t realize that the wealth of their Father’s love, power, and provision is on their “menu.”

A believer’s relationship with the Lord is one of complete unity. Jesus is our life. His Spirit lives through us. Therefore, we have remarkable resources available to us, as do our brothers and sisters in Christ—we have access to His power, strength, and endurance.

Jim didn’t know he had the right to satisfy his hunger in an extravagant way. Learn from this exaggerated example. Discover in God’s Word the riches you are entitled to through faith. God offers believers everything required for living well and wisely, so trust Him for all your needs.

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Daily Devotional - Wednesday, September 16, 2018 - Maintaining Our Witness in Trials

SEPTEMBER 26TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Wednesday, September 16, 2018 - Maintaining Our Witness in Trials

1 Peter 2:11-12

WEDNESDAY

26

You are being watched. That's always a good thing to remember as we interact with people at work or in the community. How we respond to frustrations, annoyances, difficulties, and temptations is a witness for Christianity, and the last thing we want to do is misrepresent Christ.

Many times challenging situations arise unexpectedly. Therefore, it's important that we prepare ourselves beforehand—then we'll be equipped to display Christlikeness, and our witness will not be derailed. To be ready ...

Stay in God's Word. Knowing Scripture helps you view situations from God's perspective and know how He would have you respond.

Pray. Challenge yourself to make prayer an immediate response to your problems. When you bring your concerns to God, His peace will guard your heart and mind, which is a powerful witness to a watching world (Phil. 4:6-7).

Trust and obey. When you rely on God's promises, your peace and confidence in God will stand out to those who are consumed with fear and anxiety.

Remember whose you are. You belong to God and have been purchased by the precious blood of Christ (1 Peter 1:17-19). Your life is a display of God’s grace, and your character, conduct, and conversation should always reflect Christ.

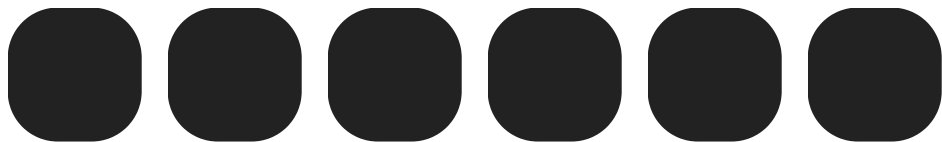
Be gracious and kind to others. Don’t let your own troubles erupt into anger and blame. Small acts of kindness and a forgiving spirit are a tremendous witness in a world where such things are rare.

Aggravations and problems seem like hindrances to us, but our response can change someone’s life if it reflects the love of Jesus Christ.

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Daily Devotional - Tuesday, September 25, 2018 - God's Economy for Generosity

Daily Devotional - Tuesday, September 25, 2018 - God's Economy for Generosity

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

TUESDAY

25

When I was a boy, my mother and I had barely enough money for food, shelter, and clothing, but that never stopped her from being generous. If one of my friends asked for some food, she always gave him something to eat, even if it was only a piece of bread. As a child, I was afraid we wouldn't have enough for ourselves, but my mother knew that the Lord's economy works differently from that of the world.

Worldly wisdom says, "Get all you can, and do all you can to keep it," but God's ways are the opposite. In today's passage, Paul uses the natural laws of agriculture to teach us His principles for generosity. Farmers know that sowing seed sparingly will not result in a big crop, but that's what some of us do when it comes to giving. We'd rather keep most of our seed in the barn just to make sure it's safe.

However, when we do this, we become like the man we read about in yesterday's parable—he tried so hard to keep all he had and yet ended up with nothing of eternal value (Luke 12:15-21). Living in God's divine economy requires confident faith in His promises. As Christians, we readily believe Him for our eternal salvation, so why are we sometimes reluctant to trust Him with earthly things like money?

We are called to be vessels through whom the Father blesses His church and others. He has promised to provide us with enough bread to eat and more seed to sow. When we learn His ways and trust what He has written, He is glorified, and we reap a bountiful harvest of righteousness.

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Daily Devotional - Monday, September 24, 2018 - The Tragedy of a Wasted Life

SEPTEMBER 24TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Monday, September 24, 2018 - The Tragedy of a Wasted Life

Luke 12:15-21

24

Death is inevitable, but at times it surprises us. Perhaps you can relate because you know someone who died unexpectedly.

Today's parable describes one such situation. It tells of a man who acquired comfort and wealth but thought only of his time on earth. Death came without warning, and he could take nothing with him. God called him a fool for living focused only on himself.

Though rich in the world's eyes, the man had no relationship with God and hadn't invested anything in Christ's kingdom. All the treasures he stored here were worthless once he died. What's even worse is that without Jesus, he'd be separated from God forever. Think about the tragic waste of such a life.

As I consider the choices this man made, two questions come to mind that are important for us all to contemplate. First, if you were to die today, would you go to heaven? Salvation is a free gift for those who trust in Jesus as the acceptable sacrifice for sin. He is the only way—no

excuses or even sincere beliefs in other ways will work. And Scripture teaches that when believers die, they immediately find themselves in the Lord's presence (2 Corinthians 5:8).

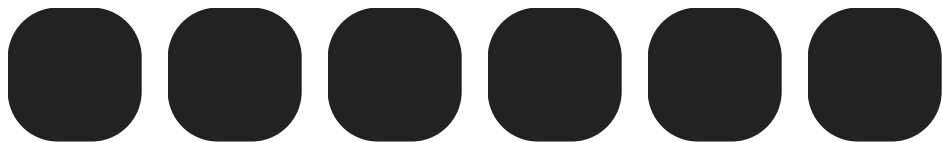
Second, what is your life accomplishing? Are you driven by selfish purposes, storing security and wealth for yourself? Or is your motivation to further God's kingdom?

Like the man in this parable, we don't know when we will die. We do know, however, that death is inescapable. Dying is an unpleasant topic, but eternity is a long time and worthy of our attention. It's definitely a wise investment to make sure of your salvation and to invest in God's kingdom.

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