

LEARNING TO LIVE AGAIN.

WHAT I BELIEVE TODAY IS MISSING, IS OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE ROLE WE PLAY. IN OTHER WORDS, WE DON'T ALWAYS UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE THAT EACH ONE OF US CAN MAKE IN THE LIVES OF OUR GREATER COMMUNITY. LET ALONE THE NEXT GENERATION.

JESUS, WHO WE'VE COME TO KNOW AS THE SON OF GOD, IS THE EXTRA-ORDINARY ONE WHO SHOWS US **(1)** WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE IN RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, GOD. **(2)** HOW TO LIVE IN A WORLD THAT IS NOT ALWAYS MAKING THE BEST CHOICES. **(3)** AND IF WE LOOK CLOSE ENOUGH, WE EVEN GET A GLIMPSE OF HIS PLAN FOR US.

LET'S NOT LOOK BACK AT THE TROUBLE WHICH WE'VE JUST ENDURED. BUT LET'S LOOK FORWARD TO THE GOOD THAT IS AVAILABLE TO US WHEN WE LET GO OF OUR PAST, AND WE LET GOD HELP US TO SHAPE THIS NEW NORMAL. I BELIEVE GOD WANTS US TO BEGIN TO RE-IMAGINE WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE IN RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM AND WITH ONE ANOTHER.

LET'S BEGIN TO:

- (1) SEE THE GOOD WHICH GOD WANTS FOR US ALL.
- (2) INCREASE THE QUANTITY AND/OR QUALITY OF GOOD THAT YOU EXPERIENCE
- (3) GIVE SOMEONE ELSE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY TODAY

(1) SEE THE GOOD WHICH GOD WANTS FOR US ALL

GAL. 3:28

THERE IS NO LONGER JEW OR GENTILE, SLAVE OR FREE, MALE AND FEMALE, FOR YOU ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS.

GEN.1:1-2

IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS & THE EARTH. THE EARTH WAS FORMLESS & EMPTY, AND DARKNESS COVERED THE DEEP WATERS. AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD WAS HOVERING OVER THE SURFACE OF THE WATERS.

GEN.1:21-22 [THE FIFTH DAY]

SO, GOD CREATED GREAT SEA CREATURES & EVERY LIVING THING THAT SCURRIES & SWARMS IN THE WATER, AND EVERY SORT OF BIRD – EACH PRODUCING OFFSPRING OF THE SAME KIND. AND GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD. THEN GOD BLESSED THEM, SAYING, “BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY ON THE EARTH.”

GEN.1:26-29-31 [THE SIXTH DAY]

THEN GOD SAID, "LET US MAKE HUMAN BEINGS IN OUR IMAGE, TO BE LIKE US. THEY WILL REIGN OVER THE FISH IN THE SEA, THE BIRDS IN THE SKY, THE LIVESTOCK, ALL THE WILD ANIMALS ON THE EARTH, AND THE SMALL ANIMALS THAT SCURRY ALONG THE GROUND." SO GOD CREATED HUMAN BEINGS IN HIS OWN IMAGE. IN THE IMAGE OF GOD HE CREATED THEM; MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM. THEN GOD BLESSED THEM AND SAID, "BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY. FILL THE EARTH AND GOVERN IT. REIGN OVER THE FISH IN THE SEA, THE BIRDS IN THE SKY, AND ALL THE ANIMALS THAT SCURRY ALONG THE GROUND."

- THE PLAN OF GOD FOR YOU AND I IS TO BE SUCCESSFUL. TO HAVE DOMINION OR RULE. AS GOD LIVES TO RULE ETERNALLY ABOVE US. WE ALSO ARE TO RULE THROUGHOUT OUR LIFETIME – WITH HIS PURPOSES IN MIND – NOT OUR OWN.

GEN.2:1-3 [THE SEVENTH DAY]

SO, THE CREATION OF THE HEAVENS & THE EARTH & EVERYTHING IN THEM WAS COMPLETED. ON THE SEVENTH DAY GOD HAD FINISHED HIS WORK OF CREATION, SO HE RESTED - HE CEASED FROM ALL HIS WORK. AND GOD BLESSED THE SEVENTH DAY AND DECLARED IT HOLY, BECAUSE IT WAS THE DAY WHEN HE RESTED FROM ALL HIS WORK OF CREATION.

- Q: WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE FOR YOU, TO TAKE A BREAK TODAY?
- LET ME SUGGEST THAT GOD IS SHOWING US THE VALUE OF TAKING TIME TO PLAY.
- TO HAVE FUN. TO BE CREATIVE. TO FIND HUMOR. TO BEGIN TO REIMAGINE THE NEXT FEW STEPS. OR FEW WEEKS. AND BEGIN TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DISCUSSION AND THE EXPERIENCE OF HAVING THE KIND OF LIFE WE HAVE ALL BEEN LOOKING FOR ANYWAY.

(2) INCREASE THE QUANTITY AND/OR QUALITY OF GOOD THAT YOU EXPERIENCE

- MAKE TIME TO BE ENCOURAGED. TO BE REFRESHED. TO BE INSPIRED. TO LEARN.
- FORGET ABOUT SEEING THE CHURCH AS THE PEOPLE WITHIN THE WALLS.
- SEE THE CHURCH AS THE PEOPLE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF OUR WALLS.

1 COR.1:1-10

(10) I APPEAL TO YOU, DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, BY THE AUTHORITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, TO LIVE IN HARMONY W/EACH OTHER. LET THERE BE NO DIVISIONS IN THE CHURCH. RATHER, BE OF ONE MIND, UNITED IN THOUGHT AND PURPOSE.

- Q: WHAT IS THE ONE THOUGHT I BELIEVE GOD WANTS US TO HAVE TODAY?
- A: TO CARE ABOUT OUR NEIGHBORS AS OURSELVES.

(3) GIVE SOMEONE ELSE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY LIFE, TODAY

Q: WANT TO ELIMINATE DEPRESSION, ANXIETY, FEAR.

- LET'S INCREASE HOPE. JOY. LOVE.
- LET'S GO CRAZY. LET'S FALL IN LOVE WITH GOD, OUR COMMUNITIES, AND THE LIFE WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN.
- BECAUSE EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE IT AS GOOD AS GOD'S PEOPLE.