

Hard Work always Pays Off

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The Message

Mindsets and mentalities are powerful things. The way we think determines the way we see and the way we see determines the way we live. If we're living right, it's because we're seeing right. If we're seeing right, it's because we're thinking right. It just doesn't break down any other way. Living the Good Life is the end result of Thinking the Good Thought! If your thought-life is nasty.... your end result isn't going to be too far down the road from that description, either.

I'm not talking about lying around and dreaming about nice things. I'm talking about connecting to the Word of God and producing the kind of results that God saved, called, and equipped us to produce. The plans and purposes of God are a bit farther reaching than equipping us with a good day. Should we make the choice to travel the pathway that God's carved out for our life journey (Psalm 16:11) our schedule will be filled with great days and exciting adventure - Trust me! Living the Good Life isn't boring or dull in any way, shape or form. However, the Good Life Trail that the Spirit of God is attempting to lead each of us towards was not designed for our own personal enjoyment.

In my opinion, all we need do is to look to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our Faith. Some of our Savior's most passionate prayer time recorded was an effort to find another way. There isn't any argument regarding the request of the only begotten son of God. He was not looking forward to the hammer and nails of the cross.

That cross, as it turns out, is proof that God doesn't always change the circumstances that face His children. Sometimes, He desires to change His children that are facing the circumstances.

We shouldn't think that life is going to be a snap because God describes the life of His children as a people who live in peaceful dwelling places, secure homes and undisturbed places of rest (Isaiah 32:18). The fact that He's described our existence in that way is the reason we should be willing to stand strong and face any force that attempts to separate us from it. The Good Life is actually centered on Hard Work. (Can you believe that? I used two four letter words in one sentence!)

“Hard work isn't a sign that you've wandered off of the trail. It might be proof that you're right on track! Hard work always pays off; mere talk puts no bread on the table” (Proverbs 14:23).

Here's a great place for us to challenge our thoughts regarding the promises of God. How hard are we willing to work to see the promises of God produced, not only in our own lives, but also in the community where God has placed us to make a difference?

If we're going to see the promises of God we have got to think correctly regarding them. The promises are God is always good - but they're never easy! God seems to always lead us into battles that we can't win - problems that we can't solve - situations that we can't afford. To possess all that God has promised, we must be willing to go to work and get our hands dirty. We can sit around the living room and talk about the properties of our soil and its ability to produce or we can go outside, get off the porch, head out into The Garden and start pulling weeds.

We have choices. We can see the fruit of others or WE CAN BECOME FRUITFUL. We can attend church or WE CAN BE THE CHURCH. We have choices. We can tell our kids where to go or WE CAN RAISE THEM IN THE WAY THEY SHOULD GO. We can learn about the Good Life or WE CAN RISE UP AND LIVE THE GOOD LIFE!

All of the above good choices have something in common. THEY'RE THE HARD CHOICES - THEY'RE NOT EASY!

Are you ready to stop talking about things in your life that need to change? Are you prepared to go to work and do whatever it takes to see it happen? How hungry are you for more of God? Hungry enough to get off of the couch? Remember - mere talk doesn't put bread on the table! If we're going to wrap our fingers around the promises of God we'll have to be willing to change the way we think.

Are you ready for some change? I AM!

Thirty seven times in the New Testament the words one another are used together. Love one another - serve one another - pray for one another - etc. Over and over our instructions include one another. Hard work is always best when done with one another. Connect to the body that God has placed you in and GO TO WORK. You'll be glad you did!

We love you-
Pastors Thom and Shelby