

Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

Store In My Heart

Psalm 139:14

I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.

What is your attitude regarding God? The Psalmist recognizes Him as Creator and offers sincere gratitude for what He has done. In this passage we also see that the Psalmist recognizes that his very existence is sufficient proof of the handy work of God.

The creation around and within us should cause us to praise God for His great and mighty power. God not only provides the air, food, and water we require, He has given us the means to process those things so that we may live. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Even more, He provided a means for us to draw near to Him and live for eternity!



The Cup Or The Coffee?

Dan Henderson

A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. Conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life. Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups - porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite - telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

When all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said: "If you noticed, all the nice looking expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress. Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases it is just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink. What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups... And then you began eyeing each other's cups. Now consider this: Life is the coffee; the jobs, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain Life, and the type of cup we have does not define, nor change the quality of Life we live. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee God has provided us."

God brews the coffee, not the cups. Enjoy your coffee! - Anonymous

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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For Our Information

Ruben and Brenda Keisler are in Europe this week. They will be gone through next weekend.

Bill Venable is in Virginia visiting his daughter for a couple of weeks.

Dan and JoBeth will head back to Texas to take Ezekiel home on Monday. They also plan to visit Rachel in Houston and return Tuesday.

Tonight we start in 1Kings 18:25.

Wednesday we are in 2Timothy 1:8.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

This illustration reminded me of the rebuke Jesus gave to the Pharisees regarding their hypocrisy.

And the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You fools! Did not he who made the outside make the inside also?" **Luke 11:39-40**

We are sometimes more focused on the appearance than on the substance. It is good that we live in such a way that others see the image of Christ in our actions. Yet we must have our minds and hearts set on serving and pleasing him or our actions are just like a very expensive empty cup. We may look good, but we are not righteous. Jesus continues his instruction in the next verse.

But give as alms those things that are within, and behold, everything is clean for you. **Luke 11:41**

When we give from within those things that are good we are acting from a character of righteousness, humility and love rather than a desire to be seen. As we find throughout Scripture, we must be filled with such qualities if we truly want to be the lights in a dark world that God desires. Our good works from the heart will bring glory to our Father rather than just to ourselves. (**Matthew 5:14-16**)

We need to focus on building character and strength within. Love, humility, self-control, etc. are all things that deal with our mind and heart. Paul reminds us that our goal is service from the heart, not to the eye of men.

not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, **Ephesians 6:6**

While the lesson our illustration draws of finding joy in the life lived rather than the trappings that surround that life is helpful, we need to also remember that true joy can only be found when we put our focus on filling our minds and hearts with the goodness that is found in God's Word. Doing this will certainly bring to our actions and relationships things that will be seen as good by others and God will be glorified by such good works.



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!