

WHAT DOES HINDER YOU NOW?

There are times when people are scheduled to participate in “certain projects” or scheduled for vacation and or other activities. There are those things that occur that prevent a person from completing the project(s) and or fulfilling other scheduled activities. We all can answer the question(s) – WHY.

Paul asked a question that I now ask you. In Galatians 5:7 Paul asked the following question, “Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? Put another way the question can be asked, “Ye did run well for a Season, what doeth hinder you now?”

The scriptures are very clear. We are to love God with all of our Heart and Mind and Soul. We are to give all of our self to God. We are instructed to Love our Neighbors as our self. We have been told that Zion could have already been established; however, due to the failure of the Saints, this has not yet been accomplished. So the question is still, “what doeth hinder you now”?

When Philip preached the Gospel to the Ethiopia Eunuch the Eunuch asked the following question, “See, here is water; what doeth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God”. See Acts 8:36-37. If you read the rest of this chapter you will discover the mode of baptism. The final result of this baptism was that the Ethiopia Eunuch went on his way rejoicing.

After hearing the Gospel preached, the Eunuch could have found many reasons why he did not have to be baptized; however, he kept the commandment and went his way rejoicing. When Paul had his experience, hearing the voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul Why persecutest thou me? And a little later Saul asked the question, “what wilt thou have me to do”? Saul was given instructions and he followed those instructions and he became one of the great “Giants” of the New Testament.

The Apostle Peter was told on one occasion that when he become converted that he was to strengthen the brethren. After he went thru a cleansing process he became one of the great apostles.

So here today, you and I can look at the work of establishing Zion. We can blame or condemn others for not completing the tasks while we ourselves set on the side line and in our on mind and in our actions we may be saying “let brother or sister or someone else do the work”. We sometimes forget that the task is laid upon all of us.

One of my favorite question that I ask my self and others is – on a scale of one to ten with ten being the highest where do we place God in our life. Is he number ten or number one or some where in between. I guess the next question is if he is not number ten, why isn't he number 10. We confess we love the Lord, and I think we do; however, we have not reached the point of complete love for him.

Our place of dwelling, our house, and here on the earth depends how we go about establishing our selves, our work ethics, our training and yes how hard we work for our dream house.

What type of dream house are we thinking about for our future Life? In John 14:1-2 Jesus stated that in his Father's house are many mansions and if it were not so he would have told us. He further stated that He was going to be gone and he was going to prepare a place for us. The question is and has always been what kind of mansion he is preparing for you and me – for us. We all know that he loves us, that he gave his life as a sacrifice for you and me. I believe that His Grace, His Love, will save us from the Second Death, the Lake of Fire; however, I also am convinced that the type of mansion that we will inherit, the mansion that he has gone to prepare for us, will depend on how well we have kept his commandments.

We must not think that he is going to give us that magnificent mansion in “the sky” when we have permitted ourselves to be side tract to other vain avenues of life where God was not at the helm. So the question is “Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth”?

Our future life is worth planning for, worth sacrificing for, worth all we give it. When we go to die only one thing

matters, not how much money we have, not how many floral offerings there were nor the number of Clubs and Lodges we belong to, but what is in your soul, how much of Jesus Christ is there, for it is only this divine being that walks that path with us. In this old, old path are my friends most dear, and I walk with them with the angels near, in this old, old path made strangely sweet by the touch divine of his blessed feet. This statement did not originate with me. It was used at the funeral service of my wife. It came from the "heart" of Evangelist Edmond Daniel Gough as he sought to insure myself, my family and others the importance of preparing our life for inhabiting that mansion that our Lord is preparing for all of us.

Recently I received an E-Mail and it reflected flowers as their color changed as they began to grow and mature. As I thought about the beauty of this change I was reminded about my own life how it was changed after I committed my life to Him. The following statement is a part of my feelings of what happened to my life and what happens to all of us as we make our commitment.

"To see the moving color from black to real color filled my heart with joy and I think understanding. I think that I can compare my life to any one of the pictures. You see, I was born and raised in this world and had my humanistic traits – whatever they may have been - ; however, God has taken my life and my life has been changed and I am not the man that I use to be. I think I have belonged to God in a special way all of my life, but when his hand was placed on me in July 1949 I became a different person. I am not perfect but as I looked at the gradual change of the flowers to the beautiful state that I saw them in I could not but think that God changes us a little at a time as we embrace the truth of the Kingdom".

Isaiah put it in another way in Isaiah 28:10 and I quote, "For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little". As I understand life I find that after we discover Jesus Christ and commit our life in a life of service we must be willing to place him above all else and seek to dismiss all things that cause us to place him at the bottom of the list as we consider his place on the scale of one to ten. So we ask the question again, "Ye did run well for a Season, what doeth hinder you now"?

The clamoring voices that seek our time, our talents, our material wealth are all apart of the devils plan to keep us from obeying the commandments of God and establishing His Kingdom. We each have our free moral agency so we make the choice as to the kind of Mansion that awaits us in the after life.

Joshua 24:14-15 gives us some insight into our life and a better way of life. I challenge you to listen/read these words, "Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord. And if it seems evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the Gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the Lord, to serve other gods.

So our real question here today is – will we place "all of our life" at the altar of God and serve him the rest of our life.

May our Lord bless us as we seek to fulfill our mission of establishing his Kingdom here on this earth and preparing for His return?

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