

Thought for the Day

January 30 – February 3, 2012

January 30, 2012

*A*LL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD

Buster is a church member in Madison Heights, VA. Twenty-five years ago when he had just graduated from high school, he had no relationship with God. One night he was driving a VW and tried to make it across a railroad crossing ahead of a train. He didn't make it. The train hit his VW broadside and destroyed it. Buster suffered two broken legs, a broken jaw, and lost an eye. He was in the hospital for months. There in the hospital, dealing with pain and loss, he encountered God. He marveled that he had survived that accident and concluded that God must have some plan for his life. He surrendered his life to Christ and has served him ever since. Now he is a lay pastor in his church. His motto is this: "Yesterday is history; tomorrow is a mystery; today is present, a gift from God."

His favorite Bible verse is Romans 8:28: "All things work together for good for them that love the Lord and are called according to his purposes." Buster even considers that collision with the train to have been a good thing. Without it, he says, he might never have been found by Christ.

January 31, 2012

*O*RIGINAL SIN

In the rather optimistically titled "MAKING THE 'TERRIBLE' TWOS TERRIFIC!," child psychologist John Rosemond wrote,

"The newborn, lacking any other frame of reference, relates all early experience to himself, and himself alone. From his point of view, the world came into being at the moment he opened his eyes; therefore, the act of opening his eyes was the act of creation. It follows, from his point of view that he reigns over all things, which exist for him and because of him. Amen."

The Bible calls this original sin. That is, we come into the world with selfishness wired into our DNA. This heritage comes to us through countless generations, all the way back to Adam and Eve. Before the new Adam (Jesus Christ) can change and re-wire our hearts, we must first confess that we have a life-threatening spiritual illness that only God can cure..”

February 1, 2012

THE POWER OF GOD

When Robert Morrison, the pioneer missionary, was about to sail to China in 1867, a merchant looked at him with an amused smile and asked, “So, Mr. Morrison, do you really expect to make an impression on the idolatry of the great Chinese Empire?” Morrison replied with dignified sternness, “No sir, I expect God will.”

The young missionary was right. God accomplishes what he pleases according to his purposes to display his glory.

February 2, 2012

THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

In August, 2011, Iranian state television broadcast a powerful scene from an operating room of a hospital. A woman named Ameneh had a chance to enforce the Sharia law of an eye for an eye. Back in 2004 she had rejected a marriage proposal from a man named Majid. In anger he had poured acid on her face, permanently blinding her. Now the state was allowing her to exact revenge. Majid was on his knees waiting for Ameneh to pour acid on his eyes. Instead, at the last minute, she forgave him. Majid wept and said that Ameneh was “very generous.”

Had she poured acid on him, no one would have noticed. Sharia law would have been fulfilled. But the power of her forgiveness was picked up by newspapers across the world. All sensed that Ameneh had applied a divine standard. Jesus said, “You have heard that it was said, ‘eye for eye, and tooth for tooth,’ but I tell you, do not resist an evil person” (Matt. 5:38-39). “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you” (Luke 6:27).

February 3, 2012

How SIGNIFICANT ARE WE?

In Mort Walker's comic strip "Beetle Bailey," Sergeant Snorkel was trying to humble Beetle. He took him outside, pointed to the heavens, and said, "Look up there, Beetle. The planet earth is just one ball circling the sun and the sun is one of billions of stars in the Milky Way. Our galaxy is just one of billions in a vast universe and I am just one speck in one tiny part of a tiny ball in that vast universe. And YOU are even tinier than ME! Now, do you understand how insignificant you are?"

The Bible agrees with Sergeant Snorkel that the created universe is larger and more awesome than we can imagine. But the Bible does not agree that one person is insignificant. On the contrary, the Bible says that each of us is a unique and precious creation of God, formed by God in our mothers' wombs (Jeremiah 1:5). God not only knows our names; he has counted the hairs on our heads (Matt. 10:30).

So precious are we that Jesus Christ left the glory of heaven, came to planet earth, and died on a cross, because there was no other way that we could be cleansed of sin and made fit to live with God eternally.

God has hung a price tag on each of us. It reads "priceless"!