

The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

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Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30

Regard Not Your Stuff

by Ken Green

“Also regard not your stuff; for the good of all the land of Egypt is yours” (Gen. 45:20).

Joseph is here instructing his brothers to return to Canaan, get their father and their families and come back to dwell in Egypt. “Don’t worry about your stuff,” he tells them. “There’s plenty of stuff in the land of Egypt.”

I like the King James rendition of that. “Regard not your stuff.” Other versions say “your goods,” or “your possessions.” That’s fine, but I think we all understand the words, “Don’t worry about your stuff.”

Most of us have more stuff than we know what to do with. Somebody said, “You can’t have everything. Where would you put it?” Well, we hardly know where to put what we do accumulate. I was at a yard sale recently, seeing if there was any more secondhand stuff that I might find room for. One child was excited about finding something or other and the lady hosting the sale assured her that she should not miss the opportunity to add that to her collection. “Why some day you can have a yard sale of your own,” she suggested.

Stuff has proliferated beyond belief. I was not a deprived child, but I would have had no difficulty taking inventory of my toys. I would hate to think how long it would take to count some of my grandchildren’s toys. But we grownups are just as bad. Most of us are really convinced deep down that the secret of happiness is more stuff.

The story is told of a little girl in Hollywood who was asked to write a story about a poor family. She began her essay with the words: “There was once a very poor little girl. Her father was poor. Her mother was poor. Her governess was poor. Her chauffeur was poor...” She could not begin to relate to what it really means to be poor. While we do not have governesses and chauffeurs, most of us cannot relate to this either.

I often yearn for a simpler time and lifestyle. I just never have gotten serious about it to make any changes. I cast a longing glance at the Amish family in the horse and buggy and wonder how it would be, but there’s an awful lot of stuff that I really don’t want to give up. I’ve read *Walden Pond* by Thoreau and fantasized about doing something similar, but I won’t.

Many places where I have visited, as in Africa and India, the average person can probably carry on his back all the stuff he owns. Yet, the people seem to be at least as happy as we are in this land of abundance. I’ve watched children kicking a rolled-up wad of rags and laughing with exhilaration that couldn’t be increased if they had free access to a Toys R Us right there in their primitive village.

I don’t suppose the answer is in getting rid of a lot of our stuff, though it might help a little. The real answer is in realizing more and more that our stuff is not what life is truly all about. Whether

we like it or not and whether we're ready or not, we shall someday leave all our stuff. We must learn to hold it loosely now.

Jesus has this to say to us: "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of things he possesses" (Luke 12:15). The chief end of man is not to make more money in order to acquire more material comforts and luxuries. These things too often become our masters rather than our servants.

If we are ever to live life as God designed it to be lived, we must learn to regard not our stuff. It's not really ours anyway. Our treasures are in heaven (Matthew 6:19-24).



Something to Think About

*Procrastination is my sin,
It causes me endless sorrow,
But I've made up my mind to quit,
And I will begin . . . Tomorrow.*

TOMORROW is the great enemy of advancement. Boasting of TOMORROW is the lazy man's way of evading today's duties. TOMORROW leaves more tasks undone, more books unread, more houses uncleaned, more programs unlaunched, more resolutions unkept than any other factor of life.

TOMORROW is the great enemy of the church. Our greatest liability is not our ignorance, or our unconcern, or our unwillingness, but – TOMORROW. More absentees have been neglected, more prospects have gone unenlisted, more lessons have gone unprepared and more lost people have gone unsaved because of TOMORROW than any other reason.

TOMORROW is the great enemy of the soul. TOMORROW has sent more people to hell than all other causes combined. While one has gone to hell because he was an infidel, an agnostic, or an atheist, then thousand have gone because they counted on TOMORROW.

TOMORROW is Satan's best scheme in keeping men and women lost. Yes, Satan knows he will never destroy your faith in the Bible, or your belief in the love of God. He does not care when you realize that you need to be a Christian. He knows all of these things are of no avail if he can keep you waiting until TOMORROW.

***"Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth."
PROVERBS 27:1***

(Via. West Murray APPEAL, Murray KY.)

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

*"...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."
James 5:16*