

Shadrach Youth Ministry

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“Look Again and Think” by Oswald Chambers

“Take no thought for your life.” —Matthew 6:25

A warning which needs to be reiterated is that the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lust of other things entering in, will choke all that God puts in. We are never free from the recurring tides of this encroachment. If it does not come on the line of clothes and food, it will come on the line of money or lack of money; of friends or lack of friends; or on the line of difficult circumstances. It is one steady encroachment all the time, and unless we allow the Spirit of God to raise up the standard against it, these things will come in like a flood.

“Take no thought for you life.” “Be careful about one thing only,” says our Lord – “your relationship to Me.” Common sense shouts loud and says – “That is absurd, I must consider how I am going to live, I must consider what I am going to eat and drink.” Jesus says you must not. Beware of allowing the thought that this statement is made by One Who does not understand our particular circumstances. Jesus Christ knows our circumstances better than we do, and He says we must not think about these things so as to make them the one concern of our life. Whenever there is competition, be sure that you put your relationship to God first.

“Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.” How much evil has begun to threaten you today? What kind of mean little imps have been looking in and saying – Now what are you going to do next month – this summer? “Be anxious for nothing,” Jesus says.

Look again and think. Keep your mind on the “much more” of your heavenly Father.

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Is it wise for us to go with the flow of our culture and leave what our forefathers taught us? Hear this one out:

“There is only one wisdom for Christians: to look with a cool and very skeptical eye at all the things their own age is, precisely, most certain of. Especially is this true of the certainties that contradict what has been believed by wise Christians down the centuries.” —Sheldon Vanauken

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Servanthood and Witnessing Report

I have been driving AL (an old man who lives a few doors down from church) to the grocery stores since his license has been surrendered a long time ago. Praise God for the burden of his precious soul. He found out I know how to make “Goulash” and “Amish Friendship Bread” so it opened a door to drop off food and tell him about our Savior each time.

This time I have filled up Goulash in four small ziploc bags. In the spaces where it describes the food content, I wrote short Scriptures instead. I remember the second time I visited him, “I want your soul” almost burst out from my throat and I felt the great love Jesus has for him. This time before we parted, I told him God said, “I want your soul.” He has this big innocent smile like a child on his face which I have never seen it on his face before. Glory to God! May God's rich glory and mercy fall on this precious soul. —Mai

Praying Effectively for the Lost

By: Lee E. Thomas

Almost every time that I would sit down to read this book, I was amazed at the spiritual truths revealed about winning the lost for Christ. Through scripture and personal stories, Brother Thomas shares about how prayer is not only important and powerful when winning the lost for Christ, but it is also *necessary*. In various scriptures we see that a soul that is not saved is under the control of Satan. Jesus also reminds us that we must bind “the strong man” before we can “spoil his goods” (Mark 3:27). In other words, as Brother Thomas puts it, “no lost person will ever be saved unless someone frees him from the demonic influences that control him.... And this freeing process is accomplished through prayer!!” This statement, coupled with the fact that there are many souls that are *going to go to hell unless I pray for them*, should be sobering to any Christian who does not pray regularly and fervently for the lost. It has convicted me, and made me take another look at my priorities. It has made me realize that if I am serious about seeing souls saved, then I am going to *have* to make it a priority. I can’t just say a little weak prayer whenever it happens to come to mind. I need to schedule it, make it a habit, and put my heart into it. May Jesus help us to truly get a burden for souls – not just as something in thought only, but as a lifestyle. —Mikah

Reports due: 3rd Trimester- May 16, 2008
Book Report (choose from Booklist)
Servanthood and Witnessing Reports
Memorize: Hebrews 12:1–14
Shadrach Manual Report #3: Fruitfulness

Summer Retreat: June 8 – 14
Kentucky Mountain Bible College

...Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. Rom 14:5

Are you fully persuaded?

Read Romans Chapter 14. I do not wish to comment on this whole chapter, although reading it is a useful exercise and gives good background on my comments here.

In the particular case at hand we are dealing with Paul's instructions to a mixed church at Rome. That is a church comprising of Jewish converts and gentiles. From our reading of the Old Testament, we realize that the Jews observed "Sabbaths" at various times of the year and not just on the Sabbath. The Jewish converts were still stuck in their old ways and were not exercising their liberty in Christ after his abolition of the ceremonial law. This was creating contention between the Jews and the gentiles. They had different standards.

So regarding these x-Jews who were still enslaved by the ceremonial law, Paul says essentially, "Don't worry about them being enslaved by what is unnecessary... Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."

Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. This is a remarkable statement. What kind of application might this have for us?

Here in the Shadrach Youth Ministry we encourage young people to adopt certain standards which will prevent the Spirit from being driven from their lives. I praise God for them. In my life, I have seen the law of cause and effect in these standards. These standards are standards which I would have adopted for myself with or without Shadrach because I desired to walk with God and was zealous against anything in my life which would hinder the Spirit of God, that very thing that I wanted more than anything.

Do you see the process here? We must first have our own desire to foster the presence of God in our lives more than anything else before these standards will mean anything.

So, LET EVERY MAN BE FULLY PERSUADED IN HIS OWN MIND. If you are not fully persuaded in your own mind as to your zeal for the presence of God, these standards are as useless as the Law is to the justification of a sinner.

Let me give an example. When my wife was in high school, she participated in Band. It was a big deal to her. She loved it and worked hard to perform well. At the start of what would have been her final year in band, she was invited to be the section leader. However, something else was happening in her life at this time. Her relationship with God was growing and her desire for Him was more than anything else in life. She realized that involvement in band and commitment to band practices conflicted with being in the house of God, with the people of God, learning about the things of God. God was exciting to her. She had tasted and seen that the Lord was good.

How about you? Have you tasted and seen that the Lord is good, or are you riding on the faith of your parents or older siblings? Have you LET God get involved in your life by ASKING him, and by talking to Him?

Going back to the example of my wife, nobody had to tell her, "Don't get involved with organized competitive sports or activities because they will always conflict with church activities". Her brain was working these things out for itself BECAUSE SHE WANTED GOD MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE.

So where does that leave me as a pastor? Should I tell you not to get involved with organized, competitive sports? No. If you don't want God more than anything else in the universe, if you haven't said with Peter, "Lord to who else will we go", if you haven't yet worked out that there is nothing else on earth worth living for and that all else is vanity and false hope, then go away and work that out first. For some of us, that may take some time. For me it took twenty years. Then again, nobody really told me about Christ for the first twenty years of my life and by God's grace I responded soon after I found people living it. We will all be judged according to the light we have been given. For most of us reading this letter, we have seen a vibrant walk with God in our parents and/or leaders.

Taste and see that the Lord is good. Taste and see that the world is revolting and bitter. Young person, get yourself fully persuaded in your own mind. Talk to God candidly and let him persuade you. Amen. - Pastor Nicky

A Word from Pastor Schultze...

OUR RIGHT TO PRIVACY

Civilizations long held the belief that the man has a natural right to privacy. Many countries have protected this right in their constitutions, including the United States. In short, privacy is part of our Bill of Rights. In general we all enjoy our privacy for it is one of the basic principles of a free secular society: such as the last "right" in our Bill of Rights in 1973, for a woman to kill her unborn if she chooses to. But, oh, can you see here that our private rights should end when they cause us to violate the will of God... So at this point we are inevitably driven to Psalm 139 to learn that ultimately under the eyes of God, there is no privacy – there are no rights to anything but the will of God.

If we were the product of natural selection, as the evolutionists believe, we could do as we please or do as our genes bid us do. However, Psalm 139 teaches us that we are all created by God and that we are responsible to act according to His wishes and not ours all of our lives. In other words divine right is above human right! We learn that human right is never allowed to exist beyond the boundaries of divine right. Off course this sounds rather tyrannical but as we look at this Psalm we are immediately blessed by knowing that we are not called to pay homage to a cruel dictator but a loving, caring, always kind, compassionate God. So here is how this great Psalm begins:

O LORD, thou hast searched me and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compasseth my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, Thou knowest it altogether. Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.

You just sat down a few seconds ago to read this article. God knows all about that, and God knows exactly when you're going to get back up. He knows when you go to bed tonight, and He knows what you will say before you say it. He's ever by your side. Even if you fly to the uttermost parts of the earth, He is with you (v. 7-9). He put you together in your mother's womb and planned all of your steps before you, from the cradle to the grave. Yes, God made you and God is ever where you are. **You have no privacy!** You have no right for it, nor do you have any right to do your own thing. "In Him," as Paul said at Athens, "we live and move and have our being." Why would we ever want to do otherwise?