

"Pillars of Hope"

Recently on a Sunday morning at our home church, CCF, I reflected back on my college days (and soon thereafter) to look at a few of the revelations that were just beginning to form a foundation for the "house of life" I've lived in for the last thirty plus years. I then shared with our church (75% of whom are in college) some of the following convictions:

- I BEGAN TO BELIEVE AND HAVE COME TO KNOW THE MERCIFUL GOD WHO FULLY FORGIVES - Eph 1:7; Col 2:13

Because of the full and perfect work of a Full and Perfect Savior, I have no unpaid debts, no outstanding claims before God - none from the past, none presently, nor any in the future. I have received forgiveness greater than "all" my sins. There is no need to beg or plead for forgiveness, I may confess and thank Him that it is so! Because the "sinful man" in me was put to death, there is nothing or no one left to condemn (Ro 8:1). With a consciousness of the Forgiver, the Merciful One Who has fully and finally dealt with "all" my sin, I may humbly, but assuredly say, "God and I are all right."

- I BEGAN TO BELIEVE AND HAVE COME TO KNOW THE LOVING GOD WHO IS ALWAYS GOOD - I Jo 4:8,18-19; Jo 3:16; Lam 3:19-24

Since God is Love, He can only and must always be love. There is no behavior of mine that can cause Him to cease loving me. His perfect love casts out the fear that tempts me to be self-conscious and self-absorbed. With God the Father for us working all for our good, with God the Son for us interceding and overcoming, with God the Spirit for us enlivening and empowering from within, what shall I fear? (Ro 8; Ps 27) With a consciousness of an always loving God, I may humbly, but assuredly say, "I am always God's being loved child."

- I BEGAN TO BELIEVE AND HAVE COME TO KNOW THE GRACIOUS GOD WHO COMPLETELY SUPPLIES - Col 2:9-10; Phil 4:19; Matt 6:33

Surely, at first, nothing validates that we are "complete" in Christ. We don't feel like it, look like it to others, act like it even in our own eyes! Yet, God says we are. We are missing nothing necessary to live as He intends. There is nothing to "add". There are no "gaps" yet to be filled. Do you need forgiveness? to be loved? holiness? peace? patience? "I AM YOUR NEEDS MET," says Christ. With a consciousness of full supply, of a complete salvation, I may humbly, but assuredly say, "I will have what I need when I need it. Whatever I do not currently have, by God's determination, I must not need."

- I BEGAN TO BELIEVE AND HAVE COME TO KNOW THE REDEMPTIVE GOD WHO IS ALWAYS AT WORK - Ro 8:28-29; 11:36; Eph 5:20; Rev 21:5

Notice the "alls", the "everything" in these verses. There is no place where God is not sovereign, no time when He is not at work. As the God of intent and purpose, He is at work in the "all things" of my life. Nothing is wasted. No independent, evil power is at work apart from His purposes. He buys up every "liability" and converts it into an "asset." He is finishing what He began (Phil 1:6), using "all" to conform us to the image His Son. With a consciousness of a Redemptive God Who is always at work in my life, I may humbly, but assuredly say, "I have no wasted experiences, no meaningless moments, no unrectifiable choices - He is at work for His name sake."

See life through this Merciful, Loving, Gracious, Redemptive God and His passion for oneness with us... and watch the story of your life line up more and more with His story.



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GREETINGS

At various markers on the human calendar those who observe all things social tend to try and identify the prevailing societal trends. Since we've just finished the first decade of the 21st century, many such lists have appeared throughout the media.

Political, technological, ecological and economic trends have all been reported upon heavily. One bent or inclination that I've observed is that in the last ten years we, as a culture, have made narcissism trendy! Narcissism has been with us since the fall, but only recently has it been so blatantly promoted and celebrated. I don't need to illustrate!

Imagine yourself standing in 2020, looking back on the 10 year span we're now facing. What will the trend, the bent of your life have been? Will you be able to say the second decade of the 21st century began a trend of love? A direction away from narcissism? That you learned to walk away from self promotion and self centeredness? And that in the last 10 years "living for others" has become trendy in my life?

May it be so for each of us!

One In Christ, Inc.
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Alachua, Florida 32615

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

7,14,21,28 CCF
9 Alachua Study
14 Mt. Dora, FL (352-728-8179)
*19-21 Florida Retreat (***see below**)

MARCH

4-7 Cynthiana, KY (859-588-3654)

APRIL

16-18 Frankfort, KY (502-229-0114)



2010 Florida Retreat



February 19-21
Alachua, Florida

"Full of Grace and Truth"
John 1:1-18

\$260 Couple - all inclusive
\$140 Single - 2 to q room
\$215 Single - 1 to a room
\$65 per person - conference and meals only
\$15 per person conference fee only

Reservation deadlines: (\$50 per person)

Feb 1 for guaranteed room & meals

Feb 10 for meals only

(Feb 19 without room or meals)

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