

Good People



Recently I have been watching and reading about the army of exceptional people who have been working tirelessly in combat with the COVID-19 enemy. Some have been providing food and even safe housing for those who need it, others have been making deliveries of all numbers of product to those who are unable to leave their abodes for various reasons, others have been giving away the substance of their livelihood for the benefit of those who need it and still others have been providing medical support in what ever their capacity is, even to interacting with those who have the COVID disease and even to the extent of sacrificing their lives to save other's lives. It has been 155 years since a war has been fought on US soil and the enemy we struggle against is just as hostile as any enemy we have encountered in the past but this one is essentially invisible

General Sherman didn't say this during the Civil War but shortly after it his quotable quote was, "War is Hell". Anyone who has been involved in combat will no doubt attest to that assertion and no war is without it's casualties. Even in this technological era, the attempts to sanitize war never produces 100% success. From another perspective, Hawkeye Pierce (Alan Alda) said in MASH that "War is War and Hell is Hell" and his premise was that there aren't any innocent bystanders in Hell but there are a great many of them in War but that might be more about your definition of Guilt and Innocence.

Alecia Keys said, "we should decide to be individuals and avoid being clones of another, 'There's something so powerful about being unique'". This statement is very true and both in life and in war many different proficiencies are required and no one should ever say that what I do isn't important. Her statement isn't complete however, all the individuals in the Bible are Unique and are essential in God's Plan to conquer Satan, Sin, Death, and Make a People for Himself for His Glory and Our Good. It starts in Genesis and ends in Revelation but their uniqueness isn't the reason they populate Biblical stories, instead it is their commitment to God and His Word even though their uniqueness made them eminently qualified for the job. Paul offered us insight on that subject in (1 Corinthians 12:12-27) and starts off by saying, *"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body – whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many."* He goes on describing how the body works but his point is that all the parts serve an important function and are required.

Initially God sorted out Abram and Sari to build that people and the results were what we refer to as Israelites but time marched on and while the people building didn't always appear all that successful, the judge is God not us and since Jesus's death and resurrection we have been designated as a part of the people that He is making. If you critically analyze the performance of Christianity as compared with the Israelites, I suggest that we are running neck and neck.

If it is true that we are no better than our predecessors and I suggest that close inspection will verify that premise, then what should we do. Elijah (1 Kings 1-4) as he was fleeing from Jezebel announced, "I am no better than my ancestors" and he suggested that God end his life. That is a bit radical but has been the choice of many in the recent past.

While many have envisaged philosophies of life, they all fall into two basic categories. The one proposed by Shakespeare in Macbeth, "Life is a Tale Told by an Idiot, Full of Sound and Fury, Signifying Nothing.",

which essentially means that while life is lived it never produces any meaningful results. The other one is that depicted in the Bible and essentially says, "Outside Forces and Our Choices Prepare and Make Us Ready for What Comes Next". Both of these philosophies will prepare you for eternity but if your wish is to achieve positive results then it is important to know some things, first of all we can never know what those "Outside Forces" are nor can we know if they will be "Good" or "Evil" forces, second, when they arrive how will we know what choices we should be making. The choices primer that's "God Approved" is the Bible and it provides you with a plethora of good choices and even shows you how those choices played out in the lives of those who inhabit the book. Jesus throughout His life provided us with a "Life Objective" and while you may protest your inability to achieve His perfection, with the help of the Holy Spirit and some effort and commitment on your part you will advance to a higher level and while your sins are forgiven through the same Jesus, they can paralyze you if you make no effort to identify them and overcome them.

But I diverge, as I pointed out God is about making a people for Himself and (Deuteronomy 7:6-9) says that you are holy to the Lord, a treasured possession, that the Lord loved you and wanted to keep His oath that He swore to your ancestors but it reminds us that keeping His commands is integral to all of this. (Acts 15:6-21) expands on God's plans to add to His people through choosing the Gentiles (rest of the world) as part of "His Treasured Possession" and while the disciples all agreed that since God had made this to be a free gift they should not make it difficult for anyone to become part of God's People yet still to understand that Jesus did provide some guidelines that should be followed.

In (Ephesians 1:7-11) Paul proclaims that through Jesus's Blood each of us has redemption and forgiveness of sins through God's Grace which He has lavished on us and that He has purposed His plan to include us into His People Building Project. So it is that even in your uniqueness God is wanting to include you in the unity of Christ's Body for all of Eternity. Perhaps that discovery would inspire some Gratitude and Motivation to Glorify This God, after all that was His Strategy From The Beginning.