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Go and make disciples!

E-votional 75

Most to be Pitied

1 Corinthians 15:19 (ESV),

If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

I would like to first start by reiterating the context of this passage of Scripture. The idea here is that some in the church were doubting and even denying the resurrection. Paul affirms this position by what he said in verse 16-17, For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

He was effectively showing that the resurrection of Christ and also through Him the resurrection of sinners made righteous is the central most important facet of the Gospel. If Christ was not raised our entire faith was empty and good for nothing. Paul follows up on this premise by sharing verse 19, from this we derive our text for today and also the main point. That point is, that if we trust in Christ only for what He can do in this life, '*we are of all people most to be pitied.*'

This word pitied means to be those who are in desperate need of mercy. Here is a working definition from Helps Word Studies, taken from

<https://biblehub.com/greek/1652.htm>

Cognate: 1652 eleeinós (from 1656, eleos, "mercy") – pitiable, wretched; in great need of mercy (because desperate).

Wow! This is like a rock in the pit of my stomach when I survey my own life in light of this biblical truth.

When I learned the meaning of this word, I immediately thought, where do I stand on this principle? Does my life show that the most central thing in it is in fact, the resurrection of Christ and our resurrection because of Him? Or, does my life show that what I cherish is what He can do in this life alone?

Now, don't get me wrong, it is necessary to need things in this life, but I pose this further, that it is a matter of perspective. In saying that, I like what Jesus spoke of in Matthew 6:33 (ESV),

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

The matter of perspective laid out here is that, yes there are surely things we need, but it is more important to seek first God's Kingdom. When we do this, we will automatically be enrolled and even supplied for our needs in this life. In saying that, when I come to God in prayer then, it should be more about heavenly things such as our transformation and resurrection than on the things of this earth. Again, don't get me wrong, it is entirely ok to pray for our needs here on this earth. But if that if all we are focused on, Paul says '*we are of all people most to be pitied.*'

Something that I learned over the years is that if all of our prayer requests are only aimed at things in this natural earth, we may have a spiritual depth problem. Again, it is ok to pray for things we need on this earth, but if our main focus is on them we have a spiritual depth p[roblem because we are only concerned with things of this life.

So, what should we do brother and sisters? Well, I think this is exactly what we need to hear. Upon hearing this, we can turn our eyes to Jesus and ask Him very simply for spiritual help to overcome the desires of the flesh and to give us a new and fresh perspective that aligns with His Word.

Praise You, Lord! We ask, in the mighty name of Jesus, Father, to renew our minds and transform us into those who simply hear Your Word and allow the Holy Spirit to bring about what You alone would have us be. We need Your ability to only focus on You and to let You just take care of the rest. Give us clean hands and grant us clean hearts that are solo satisfied in You and the hope laid up for us in heaven. Thank You, Father. In Jesus name. Amen.

pitied (2020) Helps Word Studies, taken from <https://biblehub.com/greek/1652.htm>

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In Christ's Love,
Chris and Jeanne

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