

Pk's Perspectives ... Possessions

Can you claim rights to something you never truly owned? Now think about what I'm saying. We tend to be a very possessive people...by "we" I mean humanity in general. We wrap our arms around something, call it ours even if it really isn't ours, and resist anyone or anything that attempts to wrest it away from us. If we look around one day and realize we don't have it anymore (whatever "it" may be), we slip into the dark regions of anger or despair or depression or bitterness. And yet, most of the things we resist losing are never really ours to lose.

When we were students at Truett-McConnell College in North Georgia, my friend accidentally happened upon a truly beautiful & pristine area of the mountains that was unspoiled by human expansion. This was his "go to" place when he needed alone time or a quiet place to study and he would sometimes take a girl to his spot for a picnic date. I vividly remember the day he came into the dorm absolutely fuming...my friend had just returned from his "go to" place and was bellowing about finding the land was being cleared for a soon-to-be constructed house. He was incensed about losing something that he never actually possessed!

The Bible tells us that all things belong to God, even the cattle on a thousand hills (in my much younger days, I remember wondering who owned the cattle on hill #1001 since surely there were more than a thousand hills). Paul gave this testimony in Philippians: "More than that, I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of Him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them filth, so that I may gain Christ."

This present life – and everything associated with this present life – is ephemeral. We, as followers of Jesus, are not meant to attach ourselves to the things of this world; this life is not a rent-to-own proposition. Does God mean for us to enjoy this life and His many blessings? Absolutely!! Should we savor the experiences of daily living? Without a doubt!! Are we to confront the challenges of our present existence with gusto and determination? Sure we are!! Does God intend for us to attach ourselves to the things of this life in order to find our security and peace of mind and reason for living? No, no, no! God's desire is that we find our security in Him, the certainty of eternity and that we attach ourselves to the things of heaven, not the things of earth. The Bible says, "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth." This is one of those Biblical truths that are easy to speak but difficult to live out. We agree in our mind that the things of this life are of negligible value but our hearts struggle with wanting to hold and possess and preserve our little corner of the world. Randy Alcorn once wrote: "The grace that has freed us from bondage to sin is desperately needed to free us from our bondage to materialism."

"You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Friend, you will know freedom when you accept the truth that you came into this world with nothing and you will take nothing from this world into eternity. You will experience freedom when you surrender ownership of your entire being to Christ. Loosen your grip, take your hands off and trust God with every area of your life. Henry Blackaby nailed it when he said, "Never hold in your heart anything you can hold in your hand." Cya in Sunday School & Worship (one service @ 11:00 AM), Pk.