
Heart and Soul ... A Weekly Meditation

November 23, 2014

“More of God”

“... that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith,
as you are being rooted and grounded in love.”

(Ephesians 3:17 NRSV)

Some years ago a man grabbed me following the worship service and said, “I need more God next year so I’m going to give more money to the church.” There was a long line of people behind him wishing to speak with me so I quickly responded, “Go directly to the Fellowship Hall and have some coffee. I need to speak with you about what you said.” His smile indicated that he knew he had disturbed me by his comment.

I have a strong dislike for bad theology – any thought that simply isn’t supported by the Bible. The notion that God is more accessible to those who give the greatest dollars to the church is bad theology. There simply wasn’t any way I would allow this man’s comment to go unchallenged.

When I caught up with him he simply said, “I got you, didn’t I?” It was clear that he had baited me and I took the bait. What he said was bad theology and he knew it. I waited for an explanation.

“Understand,” he said, “my greatest treasure in life is my wife and children.” He continued that in pursuit of a promotion at work and greater earnings he gave nearly all of himself to his company. In the past year his wife and children saw little of him. At first, they missed him. Eventually they came to accept an absent husband and father. It was this – his family no longer expecting more of him – that unsettled him. “No more.” He said. “I’m missing out on what has the greatest value to me.”

Then came the explanation I was looking for. He reasoned that if he were to have more of his family he would have to give more of himself to them. “The same is true for God, don’t you think, pastor?” He was hungry for God and the past year of grasping for success had made him weary. He needed more God. “I’m going to care more about God this year. God is going to get more of me this year – more prayer, more worship, and more of my financial resources. I’m not missing out anymore.” Perhaps this is what the apostle Paul means here in Ephesians by, “being rooted and grounded in love” – and that isn’t such bad theology!

Prayer: Teach me, O God, of the things that have true value and grant me the wisdom to pursue them above all else. Amen.

Doug Hood