

Monday, 4 April 2016

Acts 5:16-18

The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison.

I need to be careful to be a Berean and search the Scriptures carefully to make sure that any jealousy I might claim to be righteous jealousy is completely consistent with the Word of God. It is all too easy to allow envy of the success of another teacher to sway my judgment away from a Biblically sound position.

Tuesday, 5 April 2016

Acts 13:43-45

And after the meeting of the synagogue broke up, many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who, as they spoke with them, urged them to continue in the grace of God. The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him.

Why didn't these Jews ask the pertinent question, "Why?" Why were these large crowds being attracted to the teachings of Paul and Barnabas? Were they hearing something that addressed their greatest needs? I think a key point may be that they reviled Paul, an ad hominem attack rather than using the Scriptures. Do I counter what I believe to be false and dangerous teaching Biblically or by besmirching the teacher?

Wednesday, 6 April 2016

Romans 13:12-13

The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy.

Jealousy, which always has tinges of envy and covetousness, and is often expressed in a quarrelsome

nature, is evidence that I am not walking in the light of the Word. Help me, Lord, to always depend on that Lamp and Light (Ps 119:105)

Thursday, 7 April 2016

1 Corinthians 3:1-3

But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?

I think what Paul is telling me here that if I still have to struggle with consuming fleshly emotions and behavior, such as jealousy and strife, I am not ready to delve into the finer and more subtle doctrinal details. Study the instruction manual before you try and operate the machine.

Friday, 8 April 2016

Galatians 5:19-23

Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Paul lists eight sinful characteristics that are behavioral and six that are emotional with jealousy right in the middle of the bunch. Is that the catalyst, so to speak, that ignites the other fleshly behaviors and emotions?

These are contrasted with nine spiritual characteristics that are both behavioral and emotional that are the fruit of the Spirit. Isn't the Holy Spirit that Great Panacea which heals my sinful nature? Maybe I should seek to allow the Spirit free access to my soul to quench that spirit of jealousy?

Saturday, 9 April 2016

James 3:13-15 .

This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

What a price to pay for unrighteous jealousy and selfish ambition. The cost of following earthly, unspiritual, demonic wisdom is a life of disorder and every vile practice...But, my Lord and Master offers a life of righteousness sown in peace. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. [Matthew 5:9] A life free to live a life with God's love lavished upon me [1 John 3:1 NIV]

Lord's Day, 10 April 2016

Psalm 119:113

I hate the double-minded, but I love your law.

I am the double-minded one. Still hiding behind a shield of godliness, but refusing to let Your love rule my heart. It is stone cold, Help me Lord

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



April 4-10, 2016

I was dealing with a very difficult and perplexing problem in the spring of 1989 and tackling it by trying to learn everything I could on the subject. One evening, as I continued my studies, God told me very clearly that the root of the problem was that I did not know Him. I put down the book I was reading and picked up a Bible figuring that was where I was going to find Him. That began what has been a 27-year search to know, really know in a John 17:3 way, the Lord, God the Almighty.*

Voices Together has and continues to be, a very important part of that search. It is extracted from my daily meditations and is shared in the hope that others will be encouraged to turn to the Scriptures as a rich source of guidance for prayer and meditation.

It is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, www.ailbe.org; along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ.

These messages can also be received as daily emails or in a monthly printed version by sending a request to:

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or at

The Fellowship of Ailbe, voices@ailbe.org
Realizing the presence, promise and power
of the Kingdom of God.

*LORD or LORD, God the Almighty always refers to the Trinitarian God.