

It's About Me!

By Steve Patton

Our world constantly emphasizes that life is "all about me." We have it hammered into our brains daily with ad slogans like: "You are special. You deserve a break today. Have it your way. Because you're worth it. We do it all for you. It's everywhere you want to be." So life is all about me and my wants and desires. Happiness means getting everything I want.

I believe such an idea can be attributed to two things. One is the battle with our own lusts - lusts of the flesh, lusts of the eye, and the pride of life (1John 2:15-16). Flesh versus spirit is a battle we fight our whole life. God's Word teaches us that self-denial and sacrifice are fundamental to a meaningful existence (Luke 9:27; Rom. 12:1, etc.).

But secondly, we are told that life can be meaningful without a belief in a Creator God who is the source of all existence and to whom we will ultimately answer. Radical evolutionists have been at the heart of this idea, telling us that this world is here without the hand of God, and that its continued successful existence is up to man. In the evolutionist's mind we are but one species in a long continuum of beings evolving into higher forms over billions of years. Our responsibility is to do our part to see that this evolutionary march continues throughout the millenniums ahead. I'm not sure why they think we should do this since we each live only one lifetime. Shouldn't that one brief lifetime be filled with doing whatever I want, not with fulfilling any responsibility to future higher evolved beings? After all they will not care one bit about me and how I lived.

The evolutionist says that to find meaning to life, do not look up. Rather look around you and find something more important than yourself and work for it. Sounds good but I think someone long ago tried that. King Solomon recounted his quest for meaning in "something more." With great success he completed grand projects, amassed fortunes, and enjoyed mountaintop experiences, each failing to quell his heart's deepest pangs. His life lesson: Lasting significance is not found in something, but in Someone (Ecc. 12:14).

Do not let this world fool you. Life is not just about "me." It is about both God and others. When your life needs meaning, learn to look up. Have the heart of the Psalmist when he wrote, "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God" (Psalm 42:1). There you will find life's meaning.

Cold, Dead Batteries

"For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones" (Isa. 57:15). "My soul clings to the dust; revive me according to Your word....Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way" (Psalm 119:25, 34).

As those who live in the North know, when temperatures plunge well below zero, few cars left outside will start. The oil thickens and holds engine parts like heavy syrup. Cold batteries are incapable of giving enough power. Only batteries that are kept warm or those that are frequently charged will do the job. Unused batteries freeze. If you attempt to charge a frozen battery, it can explode.

Unused spiritual batteries also die in the cold of unbelief. Only by regular use and by receiving power from an outside source can spiritual power be maintained. And, any attempt to infuse spiritual power into a frozen spirit seldom works. Only a warm spiritual life can be charged with power by God. (Wayne Gropp, in Leadership, Vol. 6, No. 4)

Money, Money, Money!

"Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance" (Isa. 55:2).

What Will Money Buy?

It will buy a bed, but not sleep.
It will buy book, but not brains.
It will buy food, but not an appetite.
It will buy finery, but not beauty.
It will buy medicine, but not health.
It will buy a house, but not a home.
It will buy amusement, but not happiness.
It will buy preaching, but not the truth.
It will buy a Bible, but not salvation.
(Author Unknown)

We Need Men...

...who cannot be bought
...whose word is their bond
...who put character above wealth
...who are larger than their vocations
...who do not hesitate to take chances
...who will not lose their identity in a crowd
...who will be as honest in small things as in great things
...who will make no compromise with wrong
...whose ambitions are not confined to their own selfish desires
...who will not say they do it "because everybody else does it"
...who are true to their friends through good report and evil report, in adversity as well as prosperity
...who do not believe that shrewdness and cunning are the best qualities for winning success
...who are not ashamed to stand for the truth when it is unpopular
...who can say "NO" with emphasis, although the rest of the crowd is saying "YES."
By Leonard Wagner

The Church is NOT...

...composed of people who think they are better than others, but rather those who realize that they should be better than they are and must continually strive to do better. (Phil. 3:12-14)
...composed of perfect people, but rather those who realize they are following a perfect Lord who revealed a perfect Plan in a perfect Book. (James 1:21-25)
...composed of people who never sin, but rather forgiven sinners who acknowledge their faults and forsake them. (Prov. 28:13)
...trying to withdraw from everyone, but is rather trying to draw everyone into the fellowship of Christ by walking in the light of God. (John 12:32; Mark 16:15-16; 1John 1:6-9)
...trying to set up arbitrary rules to hinder anyone, but is rather trying to show the rule of Christ which helps everyone. (Gal. 6:2; 1John 3:16-18)
...trying to take the joy out of your life, but is rather trying to instill the beauty of holiness and true joy in your life. (2Chron. 20:21; Phil. 4:4; 1Peter 1:8)

...trying to separate you from your money, but is rather trying to keep your money from separating you from God. (Matt. 6:19-21; Luke 12:13-21)

...trying to rob you of your time, but is rather trying to get you to put the priorities of your life in proper order so you can enjoy eternity. (Matt. 6:33) (Author Unknown)