

One Thing You Lack

As we come into 2020 it is easy to think of the slogan seeing God clearly. But I would challenge each one of us to ask the question is there something in our life that we lack? Now let me qualify that question with an explanation. The one thing lacking in our life is not to be something that is physical or that which is carnal (earthly minded). The question is asked to look into our lives and do a true spiritual inventory. This spiritual inventory may not always be pleasant but when actually embraced and understood, life begins to become more filling. Read Romans 8:6-8 and Galatians 5:25. Both of these scriptures give a clear teaching that we as Christians are to recognize what it means to be spiritually minded and that anything different is not pleasing to God. So let us think about what in our lives may be lacking.

We seemed to have become comfortable with watering the words down that the Spirit deemed necessary to reveal the things from God that Father. This is made evident by how we have watered down the word love. Now this article isn't to dig into the meaning of love (which in reality could fill article after article and be taught in sermon after sermon) but the neglect of understanding of the love of God shown by how the word is used today. It is used often to mean no more than an acceptance and tolerance towards sinful and wicked behavior no matter what the word of God clearly teaches. Does this seem accurate according to scripture?

I would like to take some time and look at the rich young ruler. Mark 10:21 NKJV "Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." The rich young ruler is a familiar story to us but should cause us to pause and think about what is happening here. We first see that love is not exclusively an emotional sense of feeling but an action that causes one to look past bias and towards potential. Christ easily could have told this individual something that he possibly had heard his whole entire life and that is wow you are truly a good person. Matthew 19:17-20 NKJV "So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" What do you think was going through his (the ruler) mind at this time? He probably thought that he would be told nothing. But remember we are called to be spiritually minded which means growth is continuous and the moment you think you have it all is the moment you have lost it all. Mark 8:34-36 NKJV "When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" This young man's mind what probably already made up, heart ready to hear the words you are complete and a perfect keeper of the law. But that is not what we see, Christ knew his heart and pricked it to the core by telling him it is not always about you but think about those who are not you. Matthew 19:21 NKJV "Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

Physically, as well as on paper this rich young ruler really did lack nothing. He was rich and he was good

at following rules. Really his lack wasn't in anything of himself his lack was a trust in God. He was not willing to share what was "his" to show what God can do in his life, and for those around him. Let us be spiritually minded to know that the best keeper of our lives and souls is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let us lack nothing in Him, but be willing to give up anything that may be hindering that bond of complete trust in Him.

It is easy to be self centered but we must be humble enough to realize we are far from perfect and in all actuality lack plenty. But I would like us to consider our ways and ask what do we lack. How is our prayer life? How is our bible study? How are we letting the light shine amongst those who are blind? Are we going to be like that rich young ruler already having our minds made up on how God should see us. Or are we going to realize that it is the only by the blood of Christ, the grace of God and our willingness to submit to His word that we have the ability to receive what the rich young ruler has initially asked...

Matthew 19:16 NKJV "Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"