



30+/30 CHALLENGE

FOCUS INWARD, FOCUS UPWARD, FOCUS OUTWARD

“Called Up, Caught Up, and Consumed”

“Whom have I in heaven *but thee?* and *there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.*”

Psalms 73:25-26

OPENING REMARKS

One notable commentator has rightly described the Psalmist’s passionate expression here in verse 25 thusly: “We have here the breathings of a sanctified soul toward God...” And indeed, if we are actively seeking to draw near or closer to the Lord through the daily act of deepening fellowship, undoubtedly we are fully able to relate to the marvelous soul uplifting experience of the inspired writer.

Recall, he had just recently reversed course in his thinking and heart perspective once his mind’s eye had again experienced the correcting and enlightening touch of the Word of God. After renewed exposure to “the things of God” that occurred when he rightly entered into the holy sanctuary (“church”), he was blessed to have his thoughts and view of life elevated to see and understand the wonderful wisdom of God that is transmitted to us through inspired Scripture.

Reminding us of the heart enlightening and life illuminating power of God’s Word, Psalms 119:105 pointedly emphasizes to us: **“Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”**

In fact, every Christ follower is directly commanded in Romans 12:2: **“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”**

And, in Ephesians 4:23-24 we are dutifully urged: **“And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”**

Obviously, understanding the tremendous impact on our lives of the resulting conditioning experience of exposure, the Lord particularly commands us to constantly place before our eyes; our ears; and our hearts that which is righteous, godly and spiritually pure in nature.

Consequently, this will in effect both protectively shield and continually reinforce our hearts from incessant assaults by the wooing influences and

CENTRAL TEXT: Psalms 73:25-26

22 So foolish *was* I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee.

23 Nevertheless I *am* continually with thee: thou hast holden *me* by my right hand.

24 Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me *to* glory.

25 Whom have I in heaven *but thee?* and *there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.*

26 My flesh and my heart faileth: *but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.*

ramming impact of the ideas and elements of ungodliness and unrighteousness that are continually being circulated around us in this fallen sphere of sin.

Moreover, maintaining such an elevated state of mind will help keep our spiritual vision clear and our spiritual gaze affixed on the glorious person of God as we engage in the activities of life.

No. The intention of the main text was not designed to direct us to retreat from the routine of life and the normal experience of social interactions we commonly engage in as being a part of the community of humanity.

But, on the contrary the Lord commanded us in Matthew 5:16: **“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”** Hence, it is of great importance that our lives be effective “light-bearers” in this present generation and culture that is rapidly continuing to spirally descend deeper into the abyss of moral and spiritual darkness.

Moreover, given this enlarged or larger context, we must then conclude that not only does our devotional relationship of growing closer to God personally benefit us, but also in an overflowing and outward fashion our

BSA BRIEF

deepening loyalty and devotion to Him serves to benefit others within the circle of our lives.

We must never forget that we have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus for the primary and expressed purpose for our lives now to glorify God.