

Consumed by the News of the Day?

I didn't realize how much my outlook on life could be influenced by the news. Major national news stories are dominating our attention right now. Everywhere we turn these major stories are coming at us from all directions. We are lead to believe that nothing else matters. Our relationship with God does matter! Living our faith as a Child of God will help us to maintain the proper perspective in this world.

What brought this to my attention was when I started to look through devotionals I had written several months ago, waiting for the right time to send them out. Reading through the devotionals it hit me as to how complex our lives seem to have become in recent months. Life seemed simpler months ago. Prior to March we were aware of happenings in our world but they didn't dominate our lives night and day, as we are experiencing today. Now, even conducting the daily functions of life are done in an entirely different way than before. As a result, we run the risk of pushing God out of the first priority of our minds.

Here are some of the topics I prepared before the issues of the day took over our thinking. They represent the big picture – something that may be lacking at this time.

- Pray without Ceasing
- Our identity as a Child of God
- Being a Christian During Times of Suffering
- Being Humble
- Our Commitment to God
- Glorifying Jesus in What We Do
- Jesus Was One of Us



All are important topics to growing our faith and leading a life that models that of Jesus Christ. Look again at the titles. They are broader than the issues featured on the news. If they are important to you, don't let the news of the day overshadow the bigger picture – how God prepares us to overcome the challenges of life. While the news of the day describes the chaotic world in which we live, our faithfulness to God defines how we live in it. We are now three months into our world being turned upside down. It is easy to be overwhelmed and worn down by current happenings and to forget our role as Christians to do what God wants us to do. *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will (Romans 12:2).*

It is important to realize, especially during a crisis, that Jesus paved the way for our salvation. We also know that God will never leave us or forsake us, as we manage the issues we face. Because of this we can look forward towards eternal life and not let present day events pull us away from our God. In the battle of good versus evil, good is going to win. Let us look forward to that victory and keep God as the priority in our lives. Let Him control our thoughts. *Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things (Philippians 4:8).* Our future is the path that God leads us on towards eternal life. The rest is just history of a hurting and broken world, one that needs evidence of God in the hearts and minds of its people. Remain faithful and keep God first in our hearts and minds.

Question: How are you maintaining perspective to keep your faith foremost in your mind?

Prayer: Dear Lord. It is easy to get overwhelmed with the bad news we hear about our world today. Let us focus on the Good News of Jesus Christ and live in this earthly world as servants of the Lord. Amen.