

dec 30

i admit to feeling a little bit down today. am i doing enough or am i really doing anything at all? has my life, my purpose, my usefulness reached it's limit? i won't go on in self-pity. if any of you are even listening, i'm sure it's not to hear things like that.

i was reading some of my usual sites this morning and i came across an interesting article about the prisons in argentina. it is linked here for those that are interested in a quick read. <https://afn.net/ap/religion/evangelicals-a-rising-force-inside-argentine-prisons/>

it is a brief description of the difference the Lord can make in a life given over to Him. this man went from a killer to a preacher of the gospel in prison. just goes to show us that there is no pit so deep that He is not deeper still. there is no place that He can not reach down and lift up the soul that cries out to Him.

He did not come to condemn us. He came to save us. i think few of us can grasp the extent of His grace. be honest. most of us don't think we were really that bad. maybe we knew we weren't good enough to get there on our own and still needed a savior. one can never really know the depth of gratitude a horrible person feels when their burden of sin and guilt are lifted. we are all that guilty next to a holy God.

imagine john newton who had been a slave trader and knew the endless pain and hopelessness he had inflicted

on the lives of other souls. he wrote the famous hymn "amazing grace," his relief was so great. also imagine the one who had partaken in the torture and slaying of others and had felt no remorse whatsoever.

so true is our Lord's teaching. "therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. but to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little." luke 7:47 is our devotion less because we feel we have sinned less? is our desire to share this gift with others less because the burden we feel lifted is less?

only when we are able to grasp the full extent of our fallen nature will we feel that depth of thankfulness. even david cried out, "behold, i was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me." psa 51:5 that does not mean that his mother was an exceptionally bad woman. it means that we all are corrupt, and indeed our very nature is from birth.

it has been a fallen world every since man first sought to usurp God. i don't care if it a result of eating an apple or whatever. it was mankind's attempt to become a God himself. even now that spirit is dominant in the world. i can know more! i can do more! i can be more!

knowledge is a good thing. God says, "my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children." hos 4:6 true knowledge does not seek to usurp God. true

knowledge is knowing God! "do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil. it will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones."
prov 3:7-8

when God created us in His image, i believe we contained all His attributes: mercy, compassion, forgiveness, righteousness, gentleness and yes, a sacrificial love. indeed, our God is the beginning and ending of love; the alpha and omega of all that is good. how far have we fallen. we each decide in our own hearts. i know i have fallen so far that only Jesus could lift me up; lift me to the heights that He alone inhabits.

linda