

may 9

an overcomers heart

"let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it." num 13:30

here now the children of the promise were standing at the edge of entranced into the promised land. twelve men were sent in to spy out the land and only two among them returned with an overcomers attitude. the rest saw the land was indeed flowing with milk and honey but there were giants there, too big to overcome.

they had forgotten already the mighty deliverance of the Lord and looked again to their own ability. cries rang out - oh that we had died in the wilderness or were still slaves in egypt. they had forgotten all the deliverance they had already received. as a result, only joshua and caleb were allowed to enter the promised land.

it was here moses had perhaps His greatest test. God threatened to destroy them all and make moses the new abraham; the father of a new nation. overcoming the test magnificently, he was more concerned about how God would be perceived in doing that than how much his own status would be promoted. in putting God first his status was exalted greatly.

we know that all the happenings israel went through served as examples that we should learn from. they were type and shadow of the better things to come. if we should fail to learn the lesson given us by the

israelites, it would mean suffering a far greater loss than they endured. our promised land is the great hereafter or eternity with God.

i was watching something the other day and an atheist was attempting to explain how a functioning society could be maintained without God. they seemed to be of the opinion that everyone could just follow a few basic principles and order would be possible.

the truth is, there is only one mindset without the love and yes, even the fear of God in our hearts, and the bible tells us what it would be. "if the dead do not rise, let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!" 1 cor 15:32 if there is nothing to be feared, if there are no repercussions for any of our actions, why indeed would they be restrained in any way? we know what the bible says. "for God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil." eccl 12:14

i read the following the other day: "but these moments of happiness are not experienced alone, rather they are almost entirely relational and are dependent on a connection to the "other" – be it people, or nature, or art, or God. this is where meaning establishes itself, within the connectedness, nested in our shared suffering. i believe we are meaning-seeking creatures, and these feelings of meaning, relational and connective, are almost always located within kindness. kindness is the force that draws us together, and this is what i think i am trying to say – that despite our collective state of loss, and our potential for evil, there exists a great network of goodness, knitted

together by countless everyday human kindnesses."

sounds good and feasible, but the truth is, without God there would be no consciousness of meaning at all. the "other" this person speaks of cannot be found outside of God; not in nature, art or anything else. there must be a consciousness of absolute good as well as absolute evil. if there is no standard to be compared to it's "everyone does what is right in their own eyes." ref jud 17:6

the existence of God is what creates that vacuum in ourselves and only He can fill it. life drives us to search for a deeper meaning; a reason for our existence in a moment of time. revelation 4:11 says we were created for His pleasure. deeper than just pleasure alone, i believe He wants to share His self with us.

did you ever say you wanted to be just like your mother or father when you grew up? God wants us to be like Him when we grow up. "but we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 cor 3"18

and so, there is nothing without God. saint augustine said it best. "Thou has made us for Thyself, o Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in Thee."

if we are to be overcomers we must hold fast the truth of God and not waver. "and they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death." rev

12:11