

THE CURSE

I'd like to share a few thoughts and some scriptures with you about our life in this world.

I was born in and I've lived my entire life in the United States of America. It's often called the land of opportunity. Our history is filled with stories of people who from meager beginnings, have built by their own effort, a life of wealth, influence, and fame.

Everyday people all over the world who are trying to escape negative circumstances are trying to come to America to get their piece of the American dream.

But in spite of all our medical breakthroughs and educational opportunities we are still some of the most un-healthy people on the planet. Extremely high rates of obesity, heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, and stress.

In spite of our high standard of living, our country is riddled with very high rates of divorce, abortion, drug abuse and suicide.

In spite of our many financial opportunities, many in our society can barely make ends meet, and many at the end of their life have to rely on government welfare and charity to stay alive.

Despite the military slogan that encourages us to "be all we can be", or the many motivational books about the 5 or 10 steps to our best life now, this life leads us all to the same place. Whether we're at the top or the bottom of the socio-economic pyramid the journey leads to the same place, death.

Let's go to the scriptures to see why.

Genesis 3.13 through 19

Satan lied to Adam and Eve and he was cursed more than all the other beasts of the field.

The woman, because she listened to him and disobeyed God was cursed with pain in childbirth.

For Adam the ground was cursed and he was to toil all of his days and both thorns and thistles would grow from the Earth. By the sweat of his face he should eat his bread till he returns to the ground, because from it he was taken, and from it he will return.

At the end of Genesis chapter 3

God, because of his great love, sent man out of the garden to till the ground, because he didn't want man to stay under that curse forever.

God never intended for man to live in this world system. This entire world system is the result of man submitting to Satan's lie and becoming separated from God. Man was created in God's image, to live in the presence of God, and be the expression of God's life to this entire Earth.

God's plan to redeem man back into his original state, is called the gospel, the good news.

Natural man apart from the gospel has tried to make the most out of this life, by his own efforts. Since the fall of Man from God's presence, he has been trying to feather his nest in this world system, and has tried to lessen the effects of the curse, but the end of his efforts is the same. Dust returns to dust.

Proverbs 16:25

There is a way which seems right to a man, but it's and it's the way of death.

Ecclesiastes chapter 1.12

I, the preacher, have been King over Israel in Jerusalem. And I set my mind to seek and explore by wisdom concerning all that has been done under heaven. It is a grievous task with God has given to the sons of men to be afflicted with. I have seen all the works which have been done under the sun, and behold all is vanity and striving after the wind. What is crooked cannot be straightened, and what is lacking cannot be counted.

Romans chapter 8.20

For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope, that the creation itself also would be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

Man throughout history has been trying to come up with ways to free himself from this relentless curse, but despite his self-generated efforts, his end remains the same.

Let's look at a few more scriptures.

Throughout the generations, man has even tried to employ religion to bridge the gap between God and man. Religion is done by men and for men, utilizing the same spiritually dead nature, inherited from Adam and Eve, that God is trying to deliver him from.

God's plan of restoration, the gospel, differs from every religion on the planet. It is done by God and for God. He's the only one that can make it happen, and he made it happen for us before we even asked.

Let me share it with you.

The Apostle Paul does a good job of explaining God's supernatural work in restoring man to himself.

In 1 Corinthians 1:30 and Romans chapter 6, Paul states that by His doing God put all of mankind in Christ, He then crucified him to pay man's penalty for sin.

He buried him, raised him from the dead and seated him at the right hand of God. So because all of mankind was in Christ, whatever happened to Christ, happened to us.

Our death and resurrection with Christ, by God's doing, has given all men the opportunity to become members of God's family.

John 1.12+13 amp explains

But to as many as did receive and welcome him, (speaking of Christ) he gave the authority, the power, the privilege, the right, to become the children of God, that is, to those who believe in, adhere to, trust in, and rely on his name. Who owe their birth neither to bloods nor to the will of the flesh, that of a physical impulse, nor to the will of man, that of a natural father, but to God, they are born of God.

Man can now receive the eternal life of God, by repenting of his old nature inherited from Adam and Eve, and receiving God's incredible work on his behalf, that enables him to become a child of God. Because we are his children, we have obtained an inheritance, and the Holy Spirit has been given to guarantee our inheritance.

Ephesians 1:11-14

Romans 8.16+17 states

The spirit himself testifies together with our spirit, assuring us that we are children of God. And if we are his children, then we are his heirs also, Heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, sharing his inheritance with him....

His one perfect sacrifice provided an incredible inheritance.

Hebrews 9 and 10 explains that Christ's perfect sacrifice, gave us Eternal Redemption, Eternal inheritance, complete sanctification, and perfection for all time.

Ephesians 1:3

Blessed be the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the Heavenly places in Christ,

John 16:14

Speaking of the Holy Spirit Jesus said,

He shall glorify me, for he shall take of mine and shall disclose it to you. All things that the father has her mind, therefore I said that he takes of mine and will give it to you.

God's supernatural work on our behalf has presented us with an amazing choice. We can choose between all of the fruitless efforts of mankind over the centuries or accept God's incredible work on our behalf.

We can now choose between our best life, by our own effort, or God's best life that he has prepared for us before the foundation of the world.

In America we call that a "no brainer", a simple choice that should be obvious to all.

God Bless You.

Jim Fuller