

MONDAY, August 17, 2009:

Quotations that matter:

- ☐ *“People inevitably start out with an opinion; to ask them to search for the facts first is even undesirable. They will simply do what everyone is far too prone to do anyhow: look for the facts that fit the conclusion they have already reached. And no one has ever failed to find the facts he is looking for.”* _Peter F. Drucker, The Essential Drucker

You may have to read this quote twice. Drucker is a little like the Apostle Paul, his writings are profound and are hardly “light reading.”

The reason I highlight this quotation is because it warns us of a fatal flaw that all of us potentially have: a “closed mind.”

Even in our Bible reading, if we are not careful, we will read the Bible selectively. We will turn to those passages that back up what we want to believe.

In our prayer life, politics, relationships, and so many other areas, we can lose perspective because we’ve made up our mind already.

Some of the things we can do to combat this tendency are:

1. In your Bible reading, make sure you systematically read through the Bible. Don’t just read the portions you like and understand.
2. In your prayer life, in addition to praying about things that matter to you, also hold yourself accountable to pray scripture like Psalm 119, the Lord’s Prayer, and so many others in the Bible that will force you to align yourself to the word instead of your feelings and desires.
3. Practice love in all things.

SCRIPTURE: I Corinthians 13:4-7

TUESDAY, August 18, 2009:

Quotations that matter:

- ☐ *“He who has done his best for his own time has lived for all times.”* _V.J. Featherstone

Some Christians can come across so negatively. Their constant drumbeat is about how bad everything is and how much worse it is going to get.

Even something as joyful as the return of Jesus Christ is used to ominously remind us that the world is falling apart all around us. If you didn’t know better, you’d think that God had lost control of things.

I do not deny that there are problems. But my cry is - make a contribution today! Serve your generation. Do your best to make a positive difference in the lives of the people around you today.

Remember, a small pebble can start an avalanche of revival as well as ruin.

God will be at work to save, redeem, heal, and restore right up to the last second before the end comes. Let Him worry (does God worry?!) about when the end will come and let’s you and me do our best for our own times.

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 4:8

WEDNESDAY, August 19, 2009:

Quotations that matter:

- ☐ *“Tis not in mortals to command success.”* _Jeeves in Jeeves in the Offing, P.G. Wodehouse

If the truth be known, we mortals like to be in control. We want things to work out the way we planned for them to. We want to be able to push the button, pull the lever and turn the key and things work right. Matter of fact, much of our effort in each day goes into trying to control things enough to get our jobs done, chores accomplished and at least a small profit tallied.

However, at the end of the day, even with our best efforts we can’t command success. (Every time we make an insurance payment we ought to be reminded of this.)

But what we can do is do our best and do it unto the Lord and leave the results to Him.

Remember, at the final judgment we will not be judged on whether or not we were successful but whether we were faithful.

So be encouraged today. Give your best, fight the good fight, keep the faith...and leave the results to God.

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 16:9, Matthew 10:42

THURSDAY: August 20, 2009:

Quotations that matter:

- ☐ *“The sure road to unbelief is not rebellion but forgetfulness.”* _Os Guinness, Dining with the devil: The Megachurch Movement Flirts with Modernity, page 86

Included with each week’s devotional are the following questions:

- ☐ **Reflection:** Of what eternal benefit was my day?
- ☐ **Reflection:** What eternal truth(s) did I observe today?
- ☐ **Reflection:** Did my behavior match my values?
- ☐ **Reflection:** What am I thankful for today?

Do you know why I include them? It is because I don’t want you to forget. In our busy lives we can rush ahead of God. We can outrun His voice. We can move so fast that truth gets blurry. We can get so overloaded with problems and possibilities that we stop being thankful.

The longer this happens the surer it is that disaster awaits us.

So today I feel an urgency to remind you – feed your soul. Go back to the Cross and remember from whence you were saved. Before gulping down your daily bread hold it in you hands a moment and remember the mercies of God. Before rushing out the door hold in your arms those dear to you and remember – remember the good things.

Bottom line, push back on the pressures of life and create a holy space – a Sabbath moment to remember.

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 5:15