**WHAT’S YOUR PERSPECTIVE ?**

The following is an excerpt from an article written by a dear friend of mine that I would like to share with you today. I would like for you to carefully read it, and while doing so give reflection on what you have been through in your life, whether you are young, middle age, or a “seasoned” citizen.

“My paternal grandfather, Samuel Scott Walker, was born in 1900. He was a Christian, born in Dickson County TN and he lived most of his life in the village of Fowlkes in Dyer County. He was a calm and quiet man, devout in his faith and strong in his principles. I never saw him over-react to anything. I never saw him intensely angry. I never saw him lose his composure. He was an uneducated manual laborer. He patiently worked hard,  provided for his family, and trusted his God.

Imagine you were born in 1900, like my grandfather Samuel Scott. On your 14th birthday, World War I starts, and ends on your 18th birthday. 22 million people perish in that war. Later in 1918, the Spanish Flu epidemic hits the planet and runs until your 20th birthday. 50 - 100 million people die from the flu in those two years. Yes, that many. On your 29th birthday, the Great Depression begins. Unemployment hits 25%, the World GDP drops 27%. That continues until you are 33. The country nearly collapses along with the world economy. When you turn 39, World War II starts. Can you finally catch your breath? On your 41st birthday, the United States is pulled into WWII. Between your 39th and 45th birthday, 75 million people perish in that war. At 50, the Korean War starts. 5 million perish. At 55 the Vietnam War begins and doesn’t end for 20 years. 4 million people perish in that conflict. On your 62nd birthday you witness the Cuban Missile Crisis, a tipping point in the Cold War. Life on our planet, as we know it, could have ended. Great leaders prevented that from happening. When you turn 75, the Vietnam War finally ends. Think of everyone on the planet born in 1900. How did they survive all of that? Through all of it, God allowed America to prosper.

When you were a kid perhaps you didn’t think your parents and grandparents had a clue about life. Yet they survived everything listed above. **Perspective** is a valuable and grounding life skill, refined and strengthened as you age, and truly enlightening. Even more so is our trust in God. Let’s continue to keep things in *perspective*:  God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne. Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Peace in Christ (end of article)

Per***spect***ive. Spec has to do with the eye, as in *spec*tacles. It is a *visual*; a point of *view*. It is how you *see* things. It is your *outlook* on life based on what you’ve *seen* in your life. Your perspective, your “lens,” has determined your view of life. Some see through rose-tinted glasses. Our “worldview” is based largely on our “raising,” or our education, or our life’s experiences.

The point is this, perspective gives the person who lives through experiences of life wisdom, if he / she will use it to gain wisdom. For example, I can imagine this conversation when the Philistines’ great champion was challenging the frightened Israelites to come out and fight like a man. They might have said, “He’s so big we can never kill him!” But when David saw him he said, “He’s so big I can’t miss him!” That’s perspective.

I’m sure most of you have heard the story of the shoe manufacturer who decided to open a market for their shoes in the Congo of Africa. To do so they sent two salesmen to this very poor country. The first salesman calls back to the States and says, “Prospects of success are very limited here. No one wears shoes.” The second one calls back with an excited voice, “Prospects are incredible here! Everyone is barefoot!”

Which leads me to ask you, what is your worldview in the matter of evangelism? Many Christians look at the untaught world and proclaim, “Prospect for reaching the lost with the gospel is poor, for all seem uninterested and worldly-minded.” But an evangelist with a heart for souls would look at the same map and proclaim, “The fields are white unto harvest; send more laborers, fast!”

Let me share with you Paul’s *perspective* of life, which I’m desperately trying to make mine as well. It is found in Ephesians 5:15-16. It says,

*“****See*** *then that you walk circum****spec****tly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*

Do you “see” the point? Walk circum***spec***tly. Circum means circular, or around. Spec implies looking. When you walk, “look around.” Spiritually it means, “watch where you are going!” The world is evil and can entrap you easily in sin. It has man-holes and mine-fields in which you could fall into or be blown up by. Keep your eyes wide-open. Redeem the time. Use every moment to stand on guard. See the big picture when temptation comes into view. See, truly see*, “the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life”* (Rom. 6:23).

Now, tell me your perspective? How do you see the world? Do you see it through God’s eyes from heaven’s vertical and eternal viewpoint, or, through man’s eyes from earth’s temporal viewpoint? If the latter, then you will fall through many man-holes as you stumble through life in the dark. If the former, you will walk in the light, redeeming the time, avoiding many booby-traps set by Satan.

Until tomorrow… watch where you’re going.

I love you.

Rick