**GOD’S WORD FOR SINGLES (#2)**

***Believing & Living Psalm 73:25***

“*Whom have I in heaven but You; and there is nothing on earth I desire besides You*”

– Psalm 73:25

The culture of our society screams loud and clear: “Physical intimacy is absolutely essential to becoming fully human.” As is almost always the case, culture is wrong, again! While it is true that God said at creation, “*It is not good that man should be alone*” (Gen. 2:18), revealing we are hard-wired to want intimacy in marriage, we must be forever reminded that man’s supreme joy is not found in human relationships, but only in God.

C. S. Lewis wrote this thought-provoking line in his book *The Weight Of Glory*:

“He who has God and everything else, has no more than he who has God alone.”

Sit and meditate on that for a spell. Do you believe it? That could be a paraphrase from David’s words, “*whom have I in heaven but You; and there is nothing on earth I desire besides You*.” There is nothing, and there is no one, who could even remotely fill my heart’s desire as found in the presence of God. Embraced by His loving arms, holding His tender hands, and looking into His awesome face, makes all other relationships pale into insignificance.

Whether in heaven or on earth, God is to be my “*all in all*” (I Cor. 15:28). Far too many people, including many Christians, look for their happily-ever-after bliss to be found in someone, instead of The One. Most of us see life through a Disney fantasy where the fair young maiden and the dashing young prince find love and ride off into the sunset. For your own sake, and for the Lord’s sake, don’t put all your hopes and dreams into a relationship with another human with whom it is said, “*there is none righteous, no, not one*” (Rom. 3:10). Even a godly man like Isaiah reminds all of us, “*but we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are like filthy rags*” (Isa. 64:6).

I have been blessed beyond words in a marriage with a beautiful lady for over 44 years. The singles of this church might say, “Preacher, that’s easy for you to speak of finding contentment in God alone when you have someone to share life with.” I will not argue with you over that objection because I have learned that human emotion is hard to debate. But the wisdom that Benita and I have gained over these four decades is this: Finding perfection and ultimate fulfillment in a human being is an exercise in futility. No one can take God’s place. I repeat, even in the presence of Benita, *no one* can take the place of God! There will be no marriages in heaven (Matt. 22:30).

Do me (and yourself) a favor. Study the classic hymn *Jesus Is All The World To Me*. Read the words. Sing the words. Pray the words. Believe the words.

Jesus is **all the world** to me, **My life**, **my joy**, **my all**;
He is **my strength** from day to day, Without Him I would fall.
When I am sad, to Him I go, No other one can cheer me so;
When I am sad, He makes me glad, He’s my Friend.

Jesus is all the world to me, **my Friend** in trials sore;
I go to Him for blessings, and He gives them o’er and o’er.
He sends the sunshine and the rain, He sends the harvest’s golden grain;
Sunshine and rain, harvest of grain, He’s my Friend.

Jesus is all the world to me, And true to Him I’ll be;
Oh, how could I this Friend deny, When He’s so true to me?
Following Him I know I’m right, He watches o’er me day and night;
Following Him by day and night, He’s my Friend.

Jesus is all the world to me, **I want no better Friend**;
I trust Him now, I’ll trust Him when Life’s fleeting days shall end.
Beautiful life with such a Friend, Beautiful life that has no end;
**Eternal life**, **eternal joy**, He’s my Friend.

Can you not easily imagine Paul singing that very hymn while in that Philippian jail after his beating? (Ac. 16:25). There, at midnight, bruised and bleeding while confined in stocks on a cold, hard, filthy cell floor, he sings (likely sounding more like a frog than a human) so that all could hear him. Picture him echoing these lyrics: “Jesus is all the world to me, I want no better Friend, I trust Him now, I’ll trust Him when life’s fleeting days shall end. Beautiful life with such a friend…” Isn’t that what he wrote to those Philippians, including that jailer, when he penned these words:
*“Not that I speak in regard to need, for* ***I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content****: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”* (Phil. 3:11-13).

God is always working to bring you to the place where you can say with David, “*Whom have I in heaven but You, and there is nothing on earth I desire besides You*?” Whether you have met and married, or whether you are still single, God is ever working to bring you to that critical moment where you discover the answer to that question. Until you make that discovery and find your contentment in God, and in God alone, then you will find yourself in what I call “The Great Search” that Solomon described in Ecclesiastes. He had an itch that he could not scratch as he tried people, places and things to fill that empty vacuum in his life. Here was his discovery: “*Hear the conclusion to the whole matter – ‘Fear God, and keep His commandments, for this is* ***man’s all***.” (Eccl. 12:13).

Dear one, have you found “man’s all?” It is God, and God alone. While you have been hard-wired to seek a companion, please know that what we have been truly hard-wired for is to seek God. “He has put eternity in our hearts” (Eccl. 3:11). Only in the Eternal One will you find life’s meaning, and thus life’s fulfillment.

Pray with me now: “Dear God, there is nothing on earth I desire besides You!” - Rick