

Daily Devotional, July 14, 2020 Living in the Present

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:17 (NIV)

Most often when I write and reflect on Bible passages, I generally like to do so in my office where the majority of my reference books are located. But after bringing home the bare essentials, and working *from* my home for the past several months, that feels like a distant memory from some former life! Maybe that sounds familiar to many of you? Now that we are slowly re-opening the church building, I will start sneaking back in little by little.

If you are anything at all like me, a “cranial haze” has ultimately made itself at home, bringing with it an unrelenting fatigue in dealing with the present moment and a longing to simply “go back to how things used to be.” But in spite of all this, there is one central idea that I would like you to dwell on today: the value in life is frequently found when we bear down and learn to be fully present in whatever place we find ourselves, rather than trying to unnaturally control our surroundings to guarantee a positive and comfortable result that suits our present needs..

Therefore, I pose this question to you: what kind of person are you going to be today? Not the individual you were several months ago, or who you are confident you will be next year, but who are you right at this very moment? There is a wonderful reflection from St. Thérèse of Lisieux who said, “When we yield to discouragement it is usually because we give too much thought to the past and to the future.”

When we become taxed by our present condition, we are enticed to revere earlier times or glamorize what might lie ahead in the future. The thing is, the only place we find ourselves is always in the present. And this is the *only* place where we are able to find God. We know that Christ was with us in the past, and Christ promises to be with us in the future, but the place where we meet His grace and love is right here, in the present.

I’m guessing that whatever your life looked like 6 months ago, it probably looks quite different today! Likewise, who can possibly predict with any accuracy, what your life or our world will look like 6 months from now? What you hear in these words in the present—in this very moment—is a gift given to you by God and an invitation to breathe in His life and breathe out your praise. As Paul reminds us, whatever you do, whatever you say, wherever this day sends you, it is an opportunity for you to live as a witness to the world, of the love of God in Jesus and the opportunity to sing His praise in joy and thanksgiving that flows from a life lived with Him, each day, in that present moment.

Final Thought: If you are feeling discouraged, think about where you might be spending too much time reflecting upon the past or dreaming about the future.

“This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.” Psalm 118:24 (NLT)

Prayer: Father, no matter what anxiety or weariness that we might hold onto, help us to live in the present, allowing Your renewing work to take place in us this very day. We pray through Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
