

SOMETHING TO CHEW ON

A friend once handed us a card with the following message printed on it. "You'll go thundering down in history like an extra gallon of water down Niagara Falls."

We have never known a world that did not contain us; and everything we are saying and doing seems so terribly important, it is hard for us to imagine a world without us. It is possible to get so wrapped up in our own little circle that the truly important things of life are completely out of perspective.

When we consider that extra gallon of water over the falls, we laugh at its complete insignificance and yet most of the people who lived one hundred years ago have had just that much impact upon history. We can do one of three things. One, we can decide to be just another gallon and fall unnoticed and mingle with the turbulent rapids of the world and end in oblivion. Two, we can decide that we want to make some kind of impression in this present evil world and give all our time and energies in trying to make a name for ourselves in the Who's Who of today. To do this will require relentless dedication knowing the right people and being in the right place at the right time. When and if we accomplish our goal of becoming somebody, what will we have when we get there? The praise of man? Yes, perhaps, but the world is fickle and the heroes of today are forgotten tomorrow. If we should be so fortunate as to make a real mark in history what good will it do to us? A few lines of type in the encyclopaedia, perhaps a whole page, but what else? David commented on this saying "the wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others. Their inward thought is, that their houses shall continue for ever, and their dwelling places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names. Nevertheless man being in honour abideth not: for he is like the beasts that perish.

The third alternative is to forget about thundering down in the history of man and devote our energies in getting our name recorded in God's book of life. This too, requires relentless dedication, it requires knowing the right people (Jesus, Moses, Daniel, Peter, Paul etc.) and it requires being in the right place at the right time (Sunday school, meetings, lectures, and Bible Classes).

We won't be famous and our neighbours will have little to praise us about, but this won't concern us if we have our names written in God's book of remembrance for then we won't go thundering down in history at all; we will be immortal saints with an unending future.

How much better it is to have a part in a never ending future than in a dead past. Instead of being an extra gallon of water over Niagara Falls, we will be part of that "pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb."

It is plain as one, two, three. One is to die as the fool. Two is to achieve worldly honour and then perish. Three is to live and reign forever with Christ. Each day we are telling God by the way we live which of these three alternatives we have chosen.

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Two men met on a plane. The conversation revealed that both men had spent many years in India. The one said he had been a missionary for 25 years and had converted thousands of people to Christianity. The other man replied that he had lived in India for many years

and never saw a Christian. He then explained that while he lived in India he had spent his free time hunting tigers and had killed several hundred. The missionary said that in his 25 years in India he had never seen a tiger.

One man was looking for tigers and found them. The other man was looking for people he could help and found them. Neither saw what the other was looking for.

What are we looking for? We are only going to find that which we are seeking. No wonder so few people ever find God, they aren't looking for Him. The Russians announced that since their cosmonauts did not see God while they were in orbit, He must not exist. What a silly statement to make. They obviously were not really looking for God and it is certain that they will never find Him.

Jesus has told us to "seek first the kingdom of God." It is a fact that no one will find the kingdom of God who is not seeking it with all their heart. Jesus has also said, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

What are we seeking? It is obvious that what we really seek is the subject of our thoughts during the day. Emerson said that a "man is what he thinks about all day long." The man who hunted tigers thought about tigers and found them. The man who wanted to help people thought about them and their needs and he found ways to serve them.

Just what do we think about all day long? That will give us a clue as to what we are really seeking. There isn't much use in saying we love God with all our heart if we spend all our waking moments in the pursuit of worldly things. The man whose goal in life is to accumulate riches will think about money a great deal of the time. Wherever he goes or whatever he's doing, he will constantly be thinking about ways to accumulate wealth. With this type of attitude he will no doubt be successful in amassing a fortune but that is a very poor god for as Jesus said, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?"

The thing we need to do is seek as diligently and work as hard for the Truth, as the children of this world do for money. Many people work long and hard for their goals and achieve them, even if it's killing tigers. Jesus tells us "The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light."

We really will get that which we seek. If we seek for glory, honour and immortality, then God will give us eternal life. To seek this will mean that it will become a consuming fire within us, we will talk and think about God and His goodness when we sit in our house and when we walk on the way and when we lie down and when we rise up.

Now it isn't natural to think about God this much but we will not get into the kingdom doing what comes naturally. Paul tells us that "the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him." The man who sought tigers never saw a Christian and the man whose god is money will never see the Kingdom of God.

If we are really seeking first the Kingdom of God then our thoughts are about God. We certainly will read our Bibles every day and we will pray to God frequently. Paul concluded his remarks concerning the natural and the spiritual mind by saying, "But we have the mind of Christ."