



#82

Theme: “Simpleton”

Scripture: Romans 8:38-39 (NIV) *“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

A Thought: Every once in a while I stare into a spiritual no-man’s land. Especially during a personal Bible study, reading my daily devotion or behind the wheel of my car. I don’t want to get gushy here but it is a fact. As a human mortal living within the mercy and grace realm of our Lord Jesus Christ it is difficult to fathom His unconditional love for me. I read a passage as similar as the one above and my thoughts or my lips quietly murmur the expression Wow! And I just stare out into space! I have a hunch, though, there are a few readers up to now who smugly captioned my visualization as a “simpleton.” Yes, you are quite right, I am a very gullible person when it comes to my belief and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. But that gullibility did not give birth over night. As a matters of fact, I join the ranks not so much in intellect of many honorable men who doubted the existence of our Lord Jesus....Lewis, Solzhenitsyn, McDowell, Strobel, to name a few. I hazard to guess at one time or another in facing their respective peers they were thought of as simpletons. No... I read the Word (though, didn’t pray much) and I tried to grasp the meaning of both testaments. At times it was truly an intellectual exercise and one way to please my loving and prayer-warrior spouse. Many months or so went by from the day I accepted the Lord into my heart....and it hit me. I didn’t realize the transformation until one day a friend mentioned to me if I had lost weight, or am I trimming my hair a different way. I quickly replied simply “nope.” I told him that I had accepted Jesus into my heart and I was Born Again. How refreshing it was to claim publicly that Jesus was my Lord and Savior. The Word was transforming my hardened heart, soul and mind. The big shot (Me) didn’t even notice. Now that’s a “Wow”! What are your thoughts? Write them down.

Talk to yourself:

- When was the last time you had doubts about your faith in Jesus? Reasons?
- Were the doubts based on His promises? What was your state of faith?
- How embedded are you in today's contemporary thought and culture?
- How do you respond to those who ridicule your faith in the Lord Jesus?

Scriptures to read: Infinite Verses about God (allaboutGod.com)

- Timeless: Genesis 1:1; Revelation 1:8, 4:8d
- All Understanding: Psalm 147:5; Isaiah 40:28
- Omniscient: Proverbs 15:3; Psalm 33:13; 1 Chronicles 28:9
- Omnipotent: Genesis 17:1; Jeremiah 32:17; Matthew 19:26
- Omnipresent: Joshua 1:5; 1Chronicles 16:34; Psalm 33:11; Hebrews 13:5

Quote: Puritan Cotton Mathher, (J.P. Moreland's book, Love Your God With All Your Mind) *"Ignorance is the mother of not of devotion but of heresy."*

Bottom Line: In his book Love Your God With All Your Mind J.P. Moreland, distinguished professor of philosophy at Biola University subtitled his book with the following, *"The Role of Reason in the Life of the Soul."* Meaning that we do not rest our brains on the highest perch never to be used again. Moreland exhorts the church (page 15) *"the church must overcome the neglect of this critical area of the development of the Christian mind, perhaps the most integral component of the believer's sanctification."* The Book of Matthew tells us likewise (22:37 NIV) *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your MIND."* These words written over two thousand years ago are contrary in thought and purpose to the secular culture's version that we are easily led by religious rhetoric. Today, that is the worldview's perspective. We have a battle on our hands. Fewer and fewer people regard the Bible as a body of divinely revealed truth. We should not be viewed and or ranked in the "dumb and dumber" class. We must study the Word and let the Holy Spirit not only penetrate our souls but our minds. Matthew 5:13 exhorts each of us in tandem to be salt and light...(HCSB), *"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It's no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled on by men."* Gents, it is incumbent as believers to study the Word and to adhere without apology to the scriptures. Embed them in your heart, soul and your mind. **NOW.....THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE.**

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

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