

Something or Nothing?

Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

Galatians 6:2,3

One trend that has negatively impacted our culture today is the rise of self-centeredness. Books on positive thinking, visualization, and self-esteem have made great inroads into our daily life. Corporations, professional athletic teams, and countless individuals have jumped on the bandwagon of promoting themselves. As this mindset precipitated Lucifer's fall, it can also place believers at the edge of spiritual decline.

What are we and what is our value? Because we have been created in the image of God, we have great value and a divinely appointed purpose. As believers, we strive to strike a delicate balance between dependence on the Lord while also exercising our free will to serve Him.

The Scriptures remind us of the balance we should maintain in our attitude in following Christ as both the Lord's children and servants. We can do nothing without Him, yet we can do all things through Him. We are weak in and of ourselves, while at the same time we are strong in Him. We are residents in a sinful world, but our citizenship is in heaven. We are born in the flesh to earthly parents yet have become reborn heirs of the eternal God. We are to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. If we lose our life, we will find it; and if we humble ourselves, we will be lifted up. While we advance as saints to our heavenly kingdom, we must never forget that the Lord lifted us out of the pit.

Today's context in Galatians 6 speaks about bearing the burden of one who has been overtaken by a fault. Both believers and unbelievers can be trapped in a pit of sin. While the unbelievers have yet to know the power of deliverance, the believer has experienced freedom through the blood of Jesus, yet can still fall back into that pit in a time of great temptation. In either situation, we should exhibit compassion and concern. Remembering that we also have been rescued from our pit of sin can help us to have the right attitude toward those who are trapped. The Great Reconciler, the Lord Jesus, has also given us the ministry of reconciliation. A hand that is motivated by prayer and compassion has an opportunity to reach down and help someone escape their trap.

Today's scripture warns us not to be deceived by thinking we are something when we are nothing. Remembering that we are nothing without the Lord can help us to better serve the One who is everything. J. Ekis