

Thursday, June 25, 2020

Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

John 1: 1-5

Jesus is God! I know you know that. As Christians, you and I are very accustomed to this fact. But we ought not take it for granted that everyone knows or believes that Jesus is God. Some people don't know this about Jesus, while others simply don't believe it. John 1:14 tells us that "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." The fact that Jesus "dwelt among us" (as a human being) was a risk that he took. Jesus took the risk that people would not recognize him as God, or believe that He is God.

Jesus took this risk because it was the only way to save us. Jesus becoming a human being was the only way that our sins could be paid for. But make no mistake about it ... He is God. The reading above says, "All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made."

Jesus is the Light of the world! Without him, the world is in darkness. In the Bible, the term "darkness" often refers to being spiritually lost. It's a reference to man's sinfulness. Many a wrong deed has been done under the cover of darkness. It's easier to go unseen and unidentified when it is dark. The darker the better!

Light does two things: Light makes it harder to get away with wrong deeds. Light also exposes wrong deeds. If someone were to break into your car, they would have more success at 2:00 in the middle of the night than they would at 2:00 in the middle of the afternoon.

Jesus came to be the light of men. He has done this by showing us what is right, and he has done this by paying for our sins on the cross. In the reading above, we are told that "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Light is not the absence of darkness. Darkness is the absence of light. Good is not the absence of evil. Evil is the absence of good. Darkness only prevails where there is no light. Light immediately dispels darkness.

Christians are light in this world. If we let our light shine, the darkness will not overcome it. Even a small light is visible in a very dark room. In fact, the darker the room, the more noticeable the light. As Christians, our light is like the light of the moon. The moon has no light of its own. The moon brightens the night by reflecting the light of the sun. Christians also bring light to the world by reflecting the Son – that is, the Son of God! "You are the light of the world ... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good deeds and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

God's peace!
Pastor Jim