

Tuesday, June 30, 2020

Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...

**"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies
of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."**

1 Peter 2: 9

I don't want this to go to your head or anything, but did you know that you are one of the most important people to be alive? That is, if you are a Christian. Actually, there is no more important group of people on the face of the earth than those who know and believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Right now in our world, the eyes of all are upon those in the healthcare profession or in the medical research profession. These people are rightly being referred to as heroes for their brave and important work in the face of the current pandemic. It has been a long time since those in the medical research profession have been in such a large spotlight as they are in right now.

We are all hoping, and many are also praying, that they will figure out a vaccine for COVID-19. If they do figure out a vaccine, they will likely be held in high regard, at least until the memory of COVID-19 fades into history.

But did you know that your role in the world, as a believer in Jesus, is even more important than that of healthcare and medical research professionals? Believers in Jesus will never be celebrated by the world, but we are nonetheless extremely vital in this world. The above Scripture reading says that those who are believers in Jesus are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

As Christians, we have a message to proclaim that literally changes not only people's lives, but their eternities as well. We bear the message of the Gospel of what Jesus did for all of us on the cross. There is no more important work on the face of the earth than to share this message with as many people as possible. Even once a cure for COVID-19 is discovered, people will still die of something. If not COVID-19, then some other disease or cause of death. The biggest thing that is at stake is the eternal state of our souls – and our bodies as well after the final resurrection.

Day in and day out, those in the medical profession and the research profession get up and go to work. Are you and I doing the same? Every day we have a job to do. The world may not care if we do our job, but they need us to do it, nonetheless. They didn't hire us anyway. Jesus did. The world didn't ask Jesus to come and die for its sins. He just did it because His Father wanted Him to.

So, starting today, or continuing today, you have a very important job to do. You have a message to proclaim. And we do it with much humility, knowing that we too are in need of this message. Those in the medical field go to work every day not having COVID-19 – at least not knowingly. But you are I go to "work" every day as Christians, knowing that we also need the very thing that we are trying share with others – the Good News of God's grace which is located in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!

God's peace!
Pastor Jim