

“One Thing”...

Behold the power- either positively or *negatively*, of “One Thing”...

Lacked, Mark 10:21, “And looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him, and said to him, ‘One thing you lack...’ This *rich, young, ruler* deserves more credit than he is often given. “Yes,” he “*went away grieved*” when told what that “*one thing*” which he lack in his spiritual service to God was, but how many of us, who often look down our self-righteous noses at him, ONLY lack “*one thing*” in our own spiritual lives? And “yes,” apparently he was unwilling to do the “*one thing*” that would have enabled him to be “*complete*” (or “*perfect*,” cf. Matt.19:21), but whether “*one thing*” or *many*, are WE willing to “*do all the things which are commanded*,” Luke 17:10?

Necessary, Luke 10:42, “but only a few things are necessary, really only one...” Martha was “*worried and bothered about so many things*” (v.41), and so are we! Think about your prayers, for instance- are they composed of mostly *physical* or *spiritual* concerns, requests, and pleas? Consider the prayer in which Jesus taught His disciples *how* to pray, Matt.6:9-13. How many of the items for which they were to pray were *physical* in nature? Now, how many of them were *spiritual* in nature? Martha was overwhelmed (and apparently frustrated and perhaps angry with her sister, Mary) precisely because she was concentrating on “*so many*” *physical* things, while Mary was focusing on *spiritual* things- “*listening to the Lord’s word*,” v.39. THIS is the “*one thing*” that has the ability to bring everything else into proper perspective and priority.

Known, John 9:25, “He (the man born blind) therefore answered, ‘Whether He (Jesus) is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.’ This man didn’t *literally* know “*one thing*”- but what he is emphasizing is the importance of “*one thing*,” in fact “*the*” thing, that he knew which was most important of all, Jesus’ healing power! Such power to heal one “*blind from birth*” (cf. 9:1ff) surely meant *divine power*! If the “*one thing*” we know is the *divine power of Jesus to heal* physically and spiritually, then we’re on the right track to “*become children of God*,” John 1:12. I once heard of a fella of whom it was said, “He didn’t know much, and suspected even less!” If you know “*one thing*,” I hope it is the *healing/saving power of Jesus Christ*.

Done, Phil.3:13, “Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it (eternal life, cf. v.14) yet; but one thing I do...” The “*one thing*” Paul was doing actually encompassed two parts: “*forgetting what lies behind*” and “*reaching forward to what lies ahead*.” Both parts of this “*one thing*” are essential. The *past* must be put *behind us*, and thus not dwelt upon for none can change it, and it is not the key to our future. But we must also “*press on*” to “*what lies ahead*.” Between these two- the *past* and the *future*, is the *present*. While Paul was certainly active in the *present*, he didn’t allow his *present* “*distress(es)*” (cf. 1Cor.7:26 and 2Cor.12:7b-10) to detour or derail his ultimate objective of heaven! How often we hear, speak, and sing of the joys of heaven but allow the “*worry of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches*” (Matt.13:22) to distract and consume us. Though we probably understand that “the main thing”

in life is the attainment of heaven afterwards, we don't always remember such in how we *live in* and *cling to* the "present." Which brings to "*one (final) thing*"...

Desired/Asked, Ps.27:4, "*One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to meditate in His temple.*" If your desires were distilled down to just one, is this it?

Through the prophet Zechariah, God asked, "*For who has despised the day of small things?*" I am neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, but I ask, "Who has despised the power of 'one thing'?" Think about it, won't you? (Philip C. Strong; Viking Drive Church of Christ; 3791 Viking Drive, Bossier City, LA; online at vikingdrivechurchofchrist.com; email to mrpcstrong@hotmail.com)