**“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)