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Glutton for Interruptions

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Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

—Hebrews 12:2—

WE'RE LIVING IN AN AGE OF ACCEPTABLE DISTRACTION. And before we get too far into this, I want to plainly state what the point of this article is: too many of us are allowing ourselves to be distracted by our phones and tablets while ostensibly worshiping the God of our creation and salvation.

Now, this isn't only about phones and tablets. We could easily become distracted in our minds; dreaming away the time we should be focusing on Jesus and His grace toward us. We could do this while singing—we're singing and everyone might believe we're "into it," but we may merely be going through the motions of it all, and maybe even sounding good while doing it. Who's to know? It's probably very hard to *not* do it while praying—after all, our eyes *are* closed. And I know how easy it is to become preoccupied with distractions when trying to listen to a sermon.

It may not be that we *intend* to be distracted, but our focus is sometimes so easily taken off course and we end up chasing after things we believe are inconsequential—and Satan, our adversary, wins when we think and act this way. We physically show up, but we're chasing proverbial rabbits and then wonder why we're not growing spiritually and not getting *anything* out of our time of worship.

We get all dressed up and show up, but we're never really attendant to the God who says that where two or three are gathered together in His name . . . *He is there*. I don't know about you, but knowing He is there puts my mind on much higher alert.

Like aiming answer, the scribe who had asked Jesus the question in the 1st place restated it in his own words. Jesus said to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, *mind* and strength. The scribe said to love the Lord your God with all your heart, *understanding* and strength (vv. 32-33).

The point is that we're to love the Lord our God with the soul/mind/understanding. And we can't do that if we're distracted by everything of an earthly nature.

Paul reminds us: "Though our outer self is wasting away, yet our inner self is being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary affliction is producing for us an eternal glory that is far beyond comparison. *So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen*. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. . . . For we walk by faith, not by sight." (2 Corinthians 4:16-18; 5:7)

John reminds us: "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not from the Father but from the world. *The world is passing away, along with its desires; but whoever does the will of God remains forever.*" (1 John 2:15-17)

Make a concerted effort to put down the phone, or the tablet . . . or maybe use them without access to the Internet during worship. It may sound weird or crazy, but it will definitely help you focus during worship, keeping the main thing the main thing. It's about discipline, self-control (Galatians 5:22-23; 2 Peter 1:5-9).

Therefore, brothers, strive to make your calling and election sure. For if you practice these things you will never stumble, and you will receive a lavish reception into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. —2 Peter 1:10-11

Setting Our Kids Up for Success

P.J. Fox

“David said, “My son Solomon is young and inexperienced, and the house that is to be built for the Lord shall be exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorious throughout all lands. Therefore now I will make preparation for it.” So David made ample preparations before his death.” – (1 Chronicles 22:5)

Many parents would love to leave their children— with all they need to be successful in life. Some ensure that they have really large life insurance policies, so that when they die their children will have more than enough with regards to finances. Others make serious effort to leave some kind of legacy that would benefit their children, maybe they build a business, which they intend for their kids to run once the parents die. Or perhaps they build the family name, so that the kids would have a certain social standing and notoriety that will bring some benefit to them.

While it is a good idea to set our children up for success in this life, it is success in the next life that is far more important. The brevity of this life compared to the eternal nature of the next, makes it a completely foolish endeavor to invest all our efforts and resources in success in this life on earth.

David made ample preparations for the building of the Temple, collecting en masse large amounts of timber, bronze, silver, gold, stone etc. Now I realize that these things are physical, and that at the surface it seems like David is doing what I called “a completely foolish endeavor,” just a moment ago. But understand, the difference is that David was fulfilling the will of God, he was helping his son Solomon build God’s Temple, so really David was helping Solomon invest in the spiritual, in obedience to God’s will, and faithfulness to God’s word.

We see this emphasized a few verses later... *“Now, my son, the Lord be with you that you may be successful, and build the house of the Lord your God just as He has spoken concerning you. “Only the Lord give you discretion and understanding, and give you charge over Israel, so that you may keep the law of the Lord your God. “Then you will prosper, if you are careful to observe the statutes and the ordinances which the Lord commanded Moses concerning Israel. Be strong and courageous, do not fear nor be dismayed” (1 Chronicles 22:11–13).*

It is then very evident that the best thing we could ever do for our children, is to nourish them to maturity in the Word of God, giving them everything they need to be successful in the kingdom of God. It matters not whether they have a large trust fund, nor does it matter whether they’re in the upper echelon of society. What matters is that they have been trained to be effective for God, and that ample preparations have been made, so they can fulfill the will of God.

This is what we need to leave our children, ...the recover legacy that is most essential. ~via ***Clearwater Bulletin***; Clearwater, Florida.