

I AM MY BROTHERS KEEPER

17/11/13

There is a continuing and overriding principle in the scriptures, which requires all of us to demonstrate some level of responsibility towards the spiritual and natural needs of fellow humans. The God designated family unit, is typical of the strong bonding network where people interact and offer love and support to those who are part of their family/church structure. This gives God the best chance to bless, heal and save, those who have a conscience towards truth and a very healthy respect for life itself. Just as Adam and Eve made choices that affected the whole human race to their detriment; God wants us to make the same far reaching decisions, but this time for the betterment of the human race.

There is an order of fellowship and Godly service that God wants us to recognise. Above all things....

1PET 4:8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. God asks us to make a conscious effort towards others, particularly in the church as it helps minimize the effects of sin and failure... this is vital to God's plan and he expects us to show the same sort of diligence towards his priorities as he does... after all, he has empowered us with the ability to do so. **9** Use **hospitality** (generous friendship) one to another without **grudging** (learn to love the work of the Lord). **10** As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. First, God wants us to identify that which has been given to us and the manner in which it was offered... then go and offer likewise to others. The parable of the prodigal son revealed a big difference between the mistaken perceptions of the older brother, verses the genuine love and care that God wanted exercised. This makes it easy for us to know what is expected... because he has defined the difference between the natural mind and its false judgments and the power of spiritual opportunity.

We are both informed and reminded of whom we are actually serving...

COL 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, **as to the Lord** (he recognizes your effort... others may not), and not unto men; God is served through our interaction and support of each other; both in and out of the Lord. **24** Knowing that **of the Lord** ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. God blesses and rewards those with the wisdom and commitment to do as he has asked... a great reward.

The expectation of God rests upon all of us, to both set and follow the example of his ways in the church...

HEB 6:11 And we desire that **every one of you** do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: **12** That ye be not slothful, but **followers** of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. Set the precedent for others... be about God's business with the ability you are able to exercise, while developing and searching out other skills and opportunities you can offer.

God has provided the most powerful incentive to serve him (the world calls it 'karma', God calls it 'sowing and reaping'). **EPH 6:8** Knowing that **whatsoever good thing** any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether *he be bond or free*. Many people fail to receive much of the blessing that God has prepared for them, because they are doing most of the struggling and labour, rather than handing it over to the Lord. Being self-focused rather than being outwardly focused, hinders us from learning the value and economics of doing things God's way. Sacrificing personal time to serve others, generates much more blessing and increase, than being exclusively committed to our own life. If this is not learnt and practiced, we simply rob ourselves of much needed blessing and spiritual maturity... our knowledge and love of God will also suffer.

Sheep and goats... This parable confirms that personal service to God is achieved through serving others, rather than our self... **MAT 25:33** And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. **34** Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: **35** For **I was** an hungred, and ye gave me meat: **I was** thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: **36** Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: **I was** in prison, and ye came unto me. **37** Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? **38** When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? **39** Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? **40** And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, **Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.** Being committed to serving our brethren is the same as doing things personally for God... not finding time or making the effort is both offensive and insulting to God. Thus, of necessity and also of a willing heart... **I will be my brothers keeper!!**