

Come to Me

The Bible is filled with things we “ought” to do. We should read our Bible; pray; share the gospel; be holy; work out our salvation and a host of other “ought to’s.” However, a question comes up: when do the things we need to do become “legalism?” How does it fit in with the message of grace and the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins? Can I really do all those things without becoming proud of accomplishments or expect that somehow God thinks of me more highly than others?

My wife and I read Chambers’ *My Utmost for His Highest* for our devotions with each other this year. During the last days of August, Oswald began making a point that got me thinking. My summary of his thoughts of those devotions were that when we become “self-conscious” we are taking our eyes off Jesus. Chambers says on August 20th: “If we try to overcome self-consciousness by any common-sense, we will develop it (that is self-consciousness) tremendously. Jesus says, ‘Come to me and I will give you rest,’ i.e., Christ-consciousness will take the place of self-consciousness. Wherever Jesus comes He establishes rest, the rest of the perfection of activity that is never conscious of itself.” A Biblical example is Peter walking on the water. As long as his eyes are on Jesus, the storm does not matter.

Later in August (August 30) Oswald writes, “Don’t rejoice in successful service, but rejoice because you are rightly related to Me. The snare in Christian work is to rejoice in successful service, to rejoice in the fact that God has used you. You never can measure what God will do through you if you are rightly related to Jesus Christ. Keep your relationship right with Him then whatever circumstances you are in, and whoever you meet day by day, He is pouring rivers of living water through you, and it is of His mercy that He does not let you know it.”

Let me give a living illustration of what I am talking about: This summer we attended the wedding of our nephew, Nick. His beautiful bride, Alex, had an 18-month-old boy named Krew from a previous relationship. After the vows were exchanged, Nick turned around and sat on the front step of the platform. At that moment Krew’s babysitter released him from the back of the church. The little year and a half old Krew dashed down the center isle in front of a couple hundred people into the arms of Nick. At that point, Nick made a promise to his son to love and cherish him. No one had to tell Krew: “Run to Nick;” “Ignore the 250 people staring;” “Don’t stop to smell the flowers.” He just ran into the arms of Daddy.

I suspect that is what God Almighty might be looking for in us. Fixing our eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2) and running into his arms. When we emphasize the things we ought to do, we become self-conscious, leading to less Christ-consciousness in us.

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