

For Such a Time as This

A Daily Devotional

Friday, February 9, 2024



From Romans 7:

For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

The author of the above passage, the apostle Paul, shows himself to be a wise psychologist even if psychology would need to wait some nineteen centuries to become a recognized discipline! Paul understood the deep duplicity that is present in any human soul – a wondrous creation of God, yet a cesspool of competing desires and determinants.

Daniel Migliore wrote cogently of this in his book, *Faith Seeking Understanding*:

We human beings are a mystery to ourselves. We are rational and irrational, civilized and savage, capable of deep friendship and murderous hostility, free and in bondage, the pinnacle of creation and its greatest danger.

Yet, we are the creation of a good God and along with the rest of creation, we must join with God's initial (and eternal) affirmation and say that humankind is good. Underneath it all, beneath our own will-to-power and self-assertion, there is the creation of God who was designed to respond to the grace of God with all the gratitude and joy that our human souls might produce. This is at least what the scriptures say about us and our relationship to the rest of creation: we were created in goodness and forsook that creation for our own self-designed fantasies.

Again, Migliore ...

The Bible and Christian theology give expression to this mystery of the dignity and the danger of human beings in three related affirmations: we are created in the image of God; we are sinners who deny and distort our created being; and we are forgiven sinners, enable by God's grace to begin life anew in faith, to serve as Christ's disciples in love, and to move in hope toward the promised fulfillment of life in the coming reign of God.

We may have our issues, but in Jesus Christ, there is hope ... even for us.

Prayer for the Day: (From *The Valley of Vision*)

O Lord of Grace, may I never forget that thou hast my heart in thy hands. Apply to it the merits of Christ's atoning blood whenever I sin. Let thy mercies draw me to thyself. Amen.

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