

THREE LIFE CHANGING POSSESSIONS (Pt. 1)

I. Our friends can change our lives.

- A. Those of us who have lived for a while know that friends can make or break us.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 15:33.
 - 2. This is usually a lesson learned through observation of others and also from experience.
- B. The Bible teaches that we need to choose our friends wisely because of the great influence they have with us.
- C. The Bible gives examples of friends being hinderers instead of helpers.
 - 1. Job had three friends that were much more of a hindrance than a help.
 - 2. Amnon, David's son, had a friend that was definitely a hindrance and not a help.
 - a. He gave the advice to Amnon that led to the rape of Tamar.
 - b. Ultimately, it led to the death of Amnon at the hands of Tamar's brother, Absalom.
- D. Leroy Brownlow wrote: "A friend is like a break for a hungry appetite; like a balancing pole for walking the tightrope of life; like a soothing ointment for the cuts and bruises of life; like a golden link in the chain of life; and like a vine that clings to us despite our weaknesses."
- E. Friends, when chosen wisely, can help us through our darkest times.
- F. We all need someone with whom we can confide our desires, hurts and dreams.
- G. There is one who longs to be our friend and that is God.
 - 1. Abraham was called a friend of God (James 2:23).
 - 2. We can be a friend of God if we live a life dedicated to Him as did Abraham (John 15:14).
- H. This friendship is the most important in life and it is a possession we should long to have and greatly desire to keep.
- I. Most of us here have been let down by a friend at some point in life.
 - 1. Friends don't mean to let us down but they do because they are human.
 - 2. If we think back, we can probably think of times we let a friend down.
 - 3. We are human as well.
- J. The great thing about our Lord and our heavenly Father is that they will never let us down.
 - 1. God has told us that He will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).
 - 2. Notice how the Psalmist described God (Psalm 46:1).
- K. The Godhead loves and cares for us deeply.
 - 1. God loved us so much that He sent His Son to die for us (John 3:16).
 - 2. That shows how much God wants to be our Friend.

L. We need the friendship of people in our lives but most importantly, we need the friendship of God in our lives.

M. It is a possession to be treasured and protected.

II. **Our family can change our lives.**

A. For most people, family is a tremendous possession.

1. There are those who don't get along with their families or have had tragic family events take place.

2. Our hearts ache for those who have experienced such because we know that family should be safe, loving and nurturing.

B. We should understand that family is important because God ordained the institution of the home in the beginning.

1. Genesis 2:18.

2. We know that God created Eve for Adam and ordained the home at that time.

C. To Adam and Eve the command was given to multiply (Genesis 1:28).

D. Families are to be a support system for one another.

1. Spouses are to set the example for their mates and help them get to heaven (1 Peter 3:1-7).

2. Children are to be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).

E. When families are as God would have them to be, there is great joy in the life of the family members.

1. Each has a role to play and when each role is fulfilled there is harmony and peace in the home.

2. God wants husbands/fathers to be the head of the house (Ephesians 5:23).

3. The wife is to submit to the rule of the husband (Ephesians 5:22). Children are to obey their parents (Ephesians 6:1).

4. When these things are taking place as commanded in scripture, the home is as God would have it.

F. We know that when family life experiences problems that problems will come about in all areas of life.

G. Most of us look fondly on our families and for good reason.

1. It is with family that most early memories are made.

2. It is from family that we learn how to get along with others.

H. God wants for the home life to be happy, because He knows it affects all other aspects of life.

I. It is also important to note that there is a family that is even more important than our physical family.

1. That is the family of God.

2. God wants us to be His spiritual children (Romans 8:14).

3. God has a house and it is the church (1 Timothy 3:15).

4. We are His children when we are in His church.

5. Not only that, we become heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ when we are a part of His church (Romans 8:17).

- J. It may be that our physical families have deserted us or died or, for some other reason, there is separation.
 - 1. Such will never be the case with God and His family.
 - 2. God has promised to never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).
 - 3. The church, as a family, will always be there and God as a father and Jesus as an adopted brother will always be there.
- K. God loves us and wants us to be a part of His family.
- L. What an honor it is and would be for each to possess membership in the family of God!