

Daily View

“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” Hebrews 3:13

May 2, 2020



A pond in Connecticut. Fall, 2009

Potpourri Saturday

Food for Thought

Scripture can't “die” so it never “comes alive.” Sometimes you'll hear people praise a speaker: “he really makes scripture come alive!” I think I know what they mean and it's OK to think that. But scripture really only “comes alive” when we put it into action and our lives are conformed to it. And, of course, it can't “come alive” if someone twists it to satisfy itching ears. See *II Timothy 4:3*.

“What did you learn today,” is a fine question to ask. Particularly right this minute, when we have more time and less peace of mind than is usually the norm.

It's way easier to get someone to *watch* – a YouTube comic, a Netflix show, a movie – than it is to encourage them to do something. But it's the doing that allows us to become our best selves, and it's the doing that creates our future.

It turns out that learning isn't in nearly as much demand as it could be. Our culture and our systems don't push us to learn. They push us to conform and to consume instead.

The good news is that each of us, without permission from anyone else, can change that. — *Seth Godin*

No good will come of either blaming God for our ills or sitting around waiting for God to do what we ought to have the sense and ambition enough to accomplish for ourselves. God has put the natural abilities and means at our disposal with which to make this world a decent and pleasant place to live. This is precisely the reason why he will hold us responsible for failing at the task. And all those who charge God with the evil of this world lay themselves open to the charge of insincerity unless they are doing all within their power to dispel the evil of this world.

— *Dallas Willard*

Myth: “Christians are people of faith, so they never doubt. They're never disillusioned. They're always people of strong persistence.” The simple fact is that Christians are people

—Christians fail. There are times that we worry rather than trust. There are times that doubt nearly consumes some of us. There are Christians in every generation who walk away from the faith, who choose not to trust the living God with their lives. Being a Christian is no guarantee that a person will not have periods of deep doubt and uncertainty. — *Bible Gateway Daily*

There's a reason you don't know these biblical names: Shammua, Shaphat, Igal, Palti, Gaddiel, Gaddi, Ammiel, Sethur, Nahbi, and Geuel. But you do know two men who were also among this group: Caleb & Joshua. Two men believed God's Word. Ten folded. Who cares what the majority says?

—*Numbers 13*

We forget that the gospel appeals to the average person, not necessarily the most erudite, educated, cultivated person. Paul's view on this is clear from I Corinthians 1:26-27,

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.

The first four disciples Jesus chose were humble fisherman and there was not a scribe or a scholar among the 12. God has often used ordinary people to advance his purpose. However, Jesus also chose the apostle Paul, the highly educated Jew, to carry his word to the nations. But even Paul found that those who were most receptive to the gospel, with few exceptions, were not the elite people in the world, but ordinary people. That is still the case in 2020.

Some so-called “Christians” claim the virus is a judgment of God and glad that evil people are getting their just desserts. Their condemnation is just.

Whoever mocks the poor insults his Maker; he who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished. — *Proverbs 17:5*