

Trinity News

Finding Lasting Treasures in This Life

“For where your treasure is there will your heart be also” (Luke 12:34).

If your emotional heart is quivering within you, look for three friends:

1. A relationship with someone older who has lived long enough to understand the value of trusting, intimate friendships.
2. Seek to build a relationship with someone of your own age, someone who seems to be enjoying life and secure in their own skin, as much as one can discern.
3. Seek out someone younger than yourself who is full of expectation and still open to life. That is, someone without a whole lot of set ideas formed by experience.

Dr Gregory Janz gives this advice, though in different words, in an excellent slim book called **How to De-Stress Your Life**. It is not so small that it is full of unhelpful one-line platitudes, but big enough to include matters of substance without boring the reader with too much detail in a larger book.

Such relationships will help us to avoid **the twin poisons of fear and guilt**.

Christ tells his little flock **not to be afraid**. True messengers from God who speak real words tell us not to be afraid, to trust the best of what we hear, see, and experience, and to make love and compassion the underlying test of everything that we do.

The late Chaplain of the U.S. Senate Richard Halverson said, **“Those who fear God face life fearlessly. Those who do not fear God end up fearing everything.”** Fear of God is not a craven fear like someone cowering in a corner to escape from an ominous shadowy monster. **It is rather a sense of awe in the face of a limitless love that we cannot comprehend.**

Guilt comes with many false masks. I like what Corrie ten Boom said, “The purpose of being guilty is to bring us to Jesus. Once we are there, then its purpose is finished. if we continue to make ourselves feel guilty-to blame ourselves-then that is sin in itself” (Jantz, 53). **False guilt** is unnecessary and very damaging unless it is dissolved by facing it and seeing its puny size.

Christ says that God has been pleased to reveal his will and his purpose in the world for us. He calls it the Reign of God, the empowering of humanity to see and experience the unfolding of God's presence in the world in the person, deeds and teaching of Jesus of Nazareth.

I wrote to my beloved aunt this week at the prompting of a dear cousin, begging her to let go of her bitterness about the way her late husband had treated her. Camus once wrote about Hell being a place where we had to live forever with the people we detested most on earth. Now that would be bad! Living with bitterness forever would be a similar punishment. The timing of such words about letting go is very important. If they come too early, in the midst of grief, they can be offensive. But there is a time for them when someone is at the end of their tether, or for my 90 year old aunt, who is running out of time. I hope that she listens to her oldest nephew. I have always loved her.

Bishop Arthur Jones



**NEXT WEEK'S
READINGS:
(Prop. 15)**

Jeremiah 23:23-29

Psalm 82

Hebrews 12:1-7,11-14

Luke 12:49-56

THIS WEEK:

Wednesday.

Bible Study, 10:00am

Thursday.

Midweek Eucharist, 10am,
Chapel



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Joint Parish service/lunch:
Suggested date-September 29th
- Harvest Sunday-October 20th