



Beginnings and Endings

Recently, I heard a speaker contrast the “end of the beginning” with the “beginning of the end.” It occurred to me upon hearing the explanation that perception and perspective are intimately related and intertwined. Contrast the observation that “the glass is either half empty or half full.” In both cases, the quantity of the liquid in the glass is the same but the difference is perception and consequently perspective. The old axiom that “beauty is in the eye of the beholder” is part and parcel of this principle and pattern.

I believe it is a unique perceptive pattern that drives the perspective of the wisdom writer who wrote, “To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3:1). The author was aware of a Transcendent Person and Presence who he felt predetermined the events of life. He would later write in this same chapter, “He [God] hath made everything beautiful in his time; also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end” (Ecclesiastes 3:11). The Message paraphrases this passage, “God made everything beautiful in itself and in its time - but he’s left us in the dark, so we can never know what God is up to, whether he’s coming and going.”

The application of this principle at the outset of this New Year is that it is critically important as believers that we maintain the right perspective regarding the things around us and the things within us. However, the pessimism of the wisdom writer reflected in the aforementioned verses must be seasoned with awareness that through meditation, study, fellowship with other believers, prayer and worship we can discern and know the will of God for our lives.

One of my commitments (*not resolutions*) during the coming year is to be more consistent in spending personal and private time with the Lord so that I can listen and hear that “still small voice” that resounds and resonates louder than earthquake, wind or fire. This desire is fueled by the perspective that God has a plan and purpose for my life (*and yours too*) and that God wants me to know what it is! How else could the Apostle Paul say, “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure”? (Philippians 2:13). The prophet Jeremiah was in concert with Paul when he wrote, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end” (Jeremiah 29:11).

I encourage you as we face another year that will surely be fraught and filled with seasons of uncertainty that you earnestly seek to know God’s will for your life so that you may view whatever experiences or challenges you face from God’s view and vantage point and not your own. This is the secret to true happiness and blessing. It is the difference between the “beginning of the end” and the “end of the beginning.”

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Our Vision :

To move “*Forward in Faith*” emulating the work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, ministering to all people, exalting the Savior, equipping and supporting the members for ministry, and evangelizing the lost, while continuing to share our rich Christian and cultural heritage.

Our Mission:

To advance the Kingdom of Jesus Christ in accordance with Matthew 28:18-20, through preaching of the Gospel, consistent Christian living, personal evangelism, missionary endeavor, Christian education and the public worship of God.