

From the West Meadow  
By Pastor Wes Higgins

We live in a world that glories in the rich, the powerful. And the accomplished. But God, through the Prophet Jeremiah, tells us to glory in something else entirely. “Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me”, Jeremiah 9:23-24, NKJV. It's easy to delude ourselves into thinking that we are special because we believe in Christ. Jesus makes a plain and simple statement, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him”, John 6:44, NKJV. It is the Father who calls us and brings us to Christ. It has nothing to do with our ability, or our status in the community, or anything we might accomplish. Paul puts it this way, “For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence”, 1 Corinthians 1:26-29, NKJV. God hasn't called many of the rich, famous, or powerful. For those He has called, there is no glory – the glory all belongs to God.

We have no part in God's initial calling. As Jesus explains, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him” (John 6:44, NKJV). We can either accept His calling or reject it, we can not initiate it. That does not mean we have nothing to do once we accept God's call. “For by grace [that is God's grace] you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them”, Ephesians 2:8-10. NKJV. We are called in Christ to do good works. The “good works” don't save us, they are our duty in Christ. So what do good works consist of? Love. Love toward God by obedience to His laws – “if you love Me, keep My commandments”, John 14:15, NKJV – and love toward our neighbor – “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world”, James 1:27, NKJV. Also check Matthew 22:34-40 and Matthew 25:31-46.

If we know and understand the Lord, we will know His delight is in “exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness”, Jeremiah 9:24, NKJV. As followers of Christ, we will glory not in ourselves or our accomplishments, but in what God is doing in and through us as we exercise His lovingkindness, loving judgment, and loving righteousness.

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