

New Morning Magical - 8-13-20

You are not your own!

We are in 1 Corinthians chapter 6 today. The Apostle Paul invested much of this letter in correcting behaviors within the ecclesia at Corinth. They had been pagans previously and, to be blunt, their behavior in some areas was embarrassing to Paul as the Apostle who established this ecclesia. You can always read the text for yourself, but I had to stop at Chapter 6, verse 12, where Paul shares a hugely important principle:

12 All is allowed me, but not all is expedient. All is allowed me, but I will not be put under its authority by anything.

Paul is saying here, "I can do anything I want, but not everything I want to do is 'suitable or efficient for accomplishing a purpose.' It may be convenient, but it may be based on my 'self-interest, rather than on principle.' The freedom to do whatever I want will not govern my choices. I alone will govern them, according to the leading of the Holy Spirit."

It's true that you and I CAN do anything that pops into our minds. There really are no rules in Christ (except "the law of Christ" that we looked at in Galatians 6:2, which had to do with bearing one another's burdens.). So checking yourself to see whether your choices are based on expressions of self-interest, or based on principle, or the direct leading of God's spirit, will help you avoid trouble, and provide a source of joy and delight.

13 Now the body is not for prostitution, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

14 Now God rouses the Lord also, and will be rousing us up through His power.

15 Are you not aware that your bodies are members of Christ?

Our bodies are "*for the Lord, and the Lord for [our bodies]*," Paul declares in verse 13. This is a new idea that would have been important for the Corinthians, because, as former pagans, they had been engaged in prostitution and other forms of sexual misconduct, and still were in some cases. The point for us today, though, is this principle of recognizing that Yeshua is living inside us, so we'd do well to care for our bodies that are FOR Him and vice versa.

Jump down to verse 17 now:

17 Now he who joins the Lord is one spirit.

Here's another new idea from Paul: When we join ourselves to Yeshua, our spirits are likewise joined and we become "*one spirit,*" not two, but one.

None of this is to put new burdens on you; rather these are important points of realization of who you are because you are Christ's and Christ is yours. Our awareness is so much better served when we remember these principles. They aren't just fancy phrases; this is real, literal, serious stuff, and to the degree that we hold them close and dear, we stay out of trouble that is easy to find everywhere in this wicked eon; and our hearts, our minds, and our bodies are blessed.

Now comes Paul's follow-up declaration in verse 19, and his charge in verse 20:

19 Or are you not aware that your body is a temple of the holy spirit in you, which you have from God, and you are not your own?

20 For you are bought with a price. By all means glorify God in your body.

This Scripture is found on the first page of our Whole Body Cleansing book. It's quite a sobering realization, don't you think? Look at these points one at a time:

1. your body is a temple of the holy spirit in you
2. you are not your own
3. you are bought with a price
4. glorify God in your body

Two of these points catch my attention every time I read this: "*You are not your own,*" and "*You are bought with a price.*" It's hard to describe how profoundly I am gripped by the picture that these two statements paint. I can read them over and over, and I'm just dumbstruck: "*You are not your own, You are bought with a price.*" I don't know about you, but those words always stop me in my tracks. If anyone were to doubt just how serious the relationship is between you and Yeshua, those statements alone should clear it all up.

Chapter 7 of 1 Corinthians is all about marriage and celibacy, while Chapter 8 deals with idols and foods sacrificed to them. Chapter 9 addresses Paul's own behavior as an apostle among the ecclesia, who is entitled to be supported by them but supports himself, so as to avoid even the appearance of dependence on them for any need of his.

Late in chapter 9, Paul writes beginning in Verse 19

19 For, being free of all, I enslave myself to all, that I should be gaining the more.
20 And I became to the Jews as a Jew, that I should be gaining Jews; to those under law as under law (not being myself under law), that I should be gaining those under law;
21 to those without law as without law (not being without God's law, but legally Christ's), that I should be gaining those without law.
22 I became as weak to the weak, that I should be gaining the weak. To all have I become all, that I should undoubtedly be saving some.
23 Now all am I doing because of the evangel, that I may be becoming a joint participant of it.

To me, the point to be gained from all that Paul says in verses 19-23 is simply to relax around other people, especially those who don't share your faith. You don't have to set yourself apart, as if to call attention to yourself as a follower of Yeshua. Just relax. You aren't endangering yourself, and you may just win someone over to your faith BECAUSE you aren't flaunting it or creating an air of superiority because of it.

Now, in verse 24, Paul uses the image of athletes in a contest, which you may remember from our brief exploration the other day of "*the dais of Christ*" in 2 Corinthians 5:10:

24 Are you not aware that those racing in a stadium are, indeed, all racing, yet one is obtaining the prize? Thus be racing that you may be grasping it.

This is not a call to strive and drive; only a reminder that this is race to win what Paul calls, "*The... goal...for the prize of God's calling above in Christ Jesus,*" in Philippians 3:14. Races have opponents; ours are the wicked eon itself and the forces that run it.

In Ephesians 6, Paul calls out or opponents: "*For it is not ours to wrestle with blood and flesh, but with the sovereignties, with the authorities, with the world-mights of this darkness, with the spiritual forces of wickedness among the celestials.*" These forces are very real, by the way; don't discount or otherwise underestimate them; but perhaps the greatest opponent we face is the oppositional, adversarial force within our own human nature, which the ancient Hebrews called the sa-tan, "the adversary."

But ours is not a hard contest, when we rest in Yeshua. Look what He says in Matthew 11:

28 Hither to Me, all who are toiling and laden, and I will be giving you rest.
29 Lift My yoke upon you and be learning from Me, for meek am I and humble in heart,

and you shall be finding rest in your souls,
30 for My yoke is kindly and My load is light."

I thought that this quote was enough by itself until I saw the verse above:

27 "All [*that is, everything*] was given up to Me by My Father. And no one is recognizing the Son except the Father; neither is anyone recognizing the Father except the Son and he [or she] to whom the Son should be intending to unveil Him.

This simple statement is so easy to run right past, but it should make you feel extraordinarily special, because you are one to Whom the Son has intended to unveil the Father; and Yeshua does not do that for everyone. In this eon alone, you are most blessed, and most honored to witness Yeshua unveiling the Father to you. Perhaps most people – maybe some you know and love – will wait for a future eon to discover what this means, but they'll never know, as you do, what it feels like to be chosen.

And finally, when you despair of your race, of ever finishing it well, remember this from Philippians 4:13: "*I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me.*" In the Concordant literal, it is, "*For all am I strong in Him Who is invigorating me -- Christ!*"

And don't forget Romans 8:28-39:

28 Now we are aware that God is working all together for the good of those who are loving God, who are called according to the purpose
29 that, whom He foreknew, He designates beforehand, also, to be conformed to the image of His Son, for Him to be Firstborn among many brethren.
30 Now whom He designates beforehand, these He calls also, and whom He calls, these He justifies also; now whom He justifies, these He glorifies also.
31 What then, shall we declare to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?
32 Surely, He Who spares not His own Son, but gives Him up for us all, how shall He not, together with Him, also, be graciously granting us all?
33 Who will be indicting God's chosen ones? God, the Justifier?
34 Who is the Condemner? Christ Jesus, the One dying, yet rather being roused, Who is also at God's right hand, Who is pleading also for our sakes?
35 What shall be separating us from the love of God in Christ Jesus? Affliction, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?
36 According as it is written that "On Thy account we are being put to death the whole day, We are reckoned as sheep for slaughter."

37 Nay! in all these we are more than conquering through Him Who loves us.

38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor messengers, nor sovereignties, nor the present, nor what is impending, nor powers,

39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Finally, let me leave you today with this: At the end of His life Yeshua said, "It is accomplished." He accomplished His mission and so will we because He lives in us. We just read in Romans 8:31: *"If God is for us, who is against us?"*

Until next time,

May Yahweh bless you and keep you;

May Yahweh light up His face toward you

and be gracious to you;

May Yahweh lift His face to you

and appoint peace for you.

AMEN