

CONVERSATION! Part 2: "Treasure!"

CONVERASTION! Not only casual exchanges of words and ideas, sharing opinions... But really beautiful when it's talking about a matter in its right season to bring revelation! **1Chron12.32** And it's derek: conversation: *course of life, mode of action, behavior...* **Ps 50.23** And anastrepho: conversation: *life, behavior, busyness* **Eph 2.2,3 4.21,22** And politeuomai: conversation: *life, behavior as a citizen.* **Phil 1.27 3.20,21**

Our "relevant talk," has to do with our *lifestyle, behavior, and identity* here and now! It's the issue of our right-living, and, the righteousness we have been given in Jesus! Our righteousness, rightness with God, comes thru our faith in Jesus *finished work* of salvation!

Righteousness! We are made right with God by the redeeming blood of Jesus! "God made Him to be made sin for us who knew no sin *so that we could be made the righteousness of God in Him!*" **2Cor 5.21** "Dead in sin we are now quickened with Him, *completely forgiven*, because He blotted out the record against us, *taking it out of the way, on the Cross!*" **Col3.13** We are made righteous by salvation by Jesus and the just live it by faith! **R1.17** ***And right-living is an expectation that the fruit of our rightness with God will begin to grow!***

Right-living! At some point we are expected to grow the *fruit* of righteousness! "I am the Vine, you are the branches, every branch that doesn't bear fruit gets cutoff, every branch that does bear fruit gets pruned to bear more! *If you abide in Me you will bear much fruit! Herein is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit!*" **John 15.1-16** "To be a vessel for the Master's use... *we flee youthful lusts* to follow righteousness, faith, love, peace, *with others who call on the Lord out of a pure heart!*" **2Tim2.21,22** "The grace of God that brings us salvation *teaches us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly* in this present world as we look for Jesus to come!" **Tit2.11-13** "The time should come when you are teachers and not needing to be taught again the elementary principles!" **Heb5.12** "Your righteousness must exceed the Pharisees who pick and choose their rules and null the Word with their traditions!" **Mt 5.17ff** Anger management, control of words, giving of forgiveness... **Mt 5.21-26** Marital fidelity, "Not even thinking sexual thots outside your marriage, which would be adultery!" **v27-30** Sexual purity, "You know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Don't be deceived, fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind will inherit the kingdom..." **1Cor 6.9** Various other issues, "Nor thieves, the covetous, drunkards, revilers, nor extortioners, will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but you are washed, and sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." **v10,11**

Not reciting those passages to hurt or scare anyone into right action... God doesn't want us to live right because we have to... but because we are free to!

We don't strive to live right because we are afraid of doing anything less... we do it to "become more!"

But... for what would you give up the *comfort* of your righteousness in Christ, and *engage* the struggle against the obstacles of life?

TREASURE! An important word as a talking point and guide for our lifestyle, behavior, and identity!

Treasure... *We love the idea of it!* Buying an old house and finding a treasure hidden in the floors or walls... Digging around the yard and finding some old underground treasure... We go to a flea market or

garage sale and lay our eyes on a treasure we've wanted... We clap and groan and wish it was us on Storage Wars or American Pickers... It's in our DNA to love the idea of finding 'buried treasure' and somehow getting it! ***We know we were made for more, for God, for better things!***

Treasure... Think about what people do for the hope of treasure... Will spend years day-dreaming about it! Will get creative and plan for getting it! Will "pull up stakes" and cover land and sea to find it! Will climb over obstacles/people to get it! Will risk life and limb for it! Will die/kill to protect it! Will sacrifice almost anything for it!

And significantly, no matter how much we have of it, we always want more of it!

What is "IT" for you? Tangibles? A honey to hold, kids, friends? House, car, money, portfolio, possessions? Diplomas, awards, trophies? **Intangibles?** Peace, purpose, good name, happiness, security, control? Knowledge, creativity, wisdom, power, influence, experiences? **Things spiritual, eternal?** Important to identify because... "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be as well!" **Mt 6.21**

Treasure... Not, "where your heart is, that's where you will spend your treasure!" While it is a *self-evident* "truism..." Heart for material things, will spend the bulk of our treasure on them... Heart for immaterial, will open our treasure chest to get them... True: "We can tell what we 'love' by looking at our bank statements!" This is, "What you love you will spend on!" *This is totally true, and God did it too!* **"For God so loved the world that He gave (spent) His only begotten Son..." John 3.16**

But the verse is, "Where your treasure is that's where you'll find your heart..." This is, "What you value your heart will follow..." Ever owned stocks, bonds, commodities? Ever loved someone more than yourself? World of difference between self-focused acts and outward-focused lifestyle! "Jesus loved us and spent Himself to have us!" "Jesus values us and on us we will find His heart!" **"He is able also to save us to completion, those that come to God by Him, seeing that He ever-lives to make intercession for us..." Hebrews 7.25**

If there is reason to live-rightly it has to be the active love and loving activity of Jesus for us!

What could possibly curb our passions and extinguish our fear of God?

Nothing but the love of God... the treasure that our heart rests on!