Faith Aflame: 360 Degrees

Living as God's Child: Remembering God

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn wrote in a 1986 *Reader's Digest* article about going to school in Russia when he was a boy. He told how other children taunted him for going with his mother to the last remaining church in town. He recounted how these children "tore the cross from around my neck." A few years later he remembered older people saying that the explanation for the great disasters that had befallen Russia was, "Men have forgotten God; that's why all this has happened."

Solzhenitsyn wrote:

> "Since then I spent well-nigh 50 years working on the history of the Russian Revolution; in the process I have collected hundreds of personal testimonies, read hundreds of books, and contributed eight volumes of my own.
>
> But if I were asked today to formulate as concisely as possible the main cause of the ruinous revolution that swallowed up SOME 60 MILLION OF OUR PEOPLE, I could not put it more accurately than to repeat: 'Men have forgotten God.'"

We have the wonderful privilege of holding the position of Christian steward. It is a position granted by God's grace in creation, in the redeeming sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary's cross, and in the undeserved calling of the Holy Spirit.

One of the dangers Christian stewards face is "forgetting God."

What are some examples of how this can happen?

- In the area of time…
- In the area of possessions…
- In the area of abilities and talents…

Stewardship Prayer

Lord, sometimes we forget you. We go about our lives as if you weren't there at all. We make decisions without consulting You and watching and waiting for Your direction.

Yet, loving Lord, in the dawning of each new day, You are with us. In each dark hour, You are here.

Open our eyes to Your presence Lord and make us ever aware of Your guiding hand.

As You protect and guide us on life's journey may we, Your stewards, remain ever grateful for Your constant presence and love.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

What do the following passages have to say about "forgetting God"?

- Deuteronomy 6:10-12
- Deuteronomy 8:10-18

What is a consequence of "forgetting God" according to Deuteronomy 8:19-20?

What guidance to the following passages give as we seek to remember Him?

- Deuteronomy 4:9
- 2 Kings 17:38-39
- Proverbs 3:1
- Hebrews 10:25
- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

What is something you can do this week to "remember God" as a Christian steward?

- As you start your day:
- As you go about your work:
- As you relate to others:
- As you spend and save and give:
- As you end your day:

Who can help hold you accountable to do what you said above?

Closing: In closing meditate on the words of Ephesians 2:11-13.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
District and Congregational Services
Stewardship Ministry
Rev. Wayne J. Knolhoff, Director