

Seeking the Resource for Life

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God has created a void within our hearts that can be filled only with Him. The *Westminster Shorter Catechism* opens with the question, “What is the chief end of man?” The answer is, “Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.” We were created by God to be in relationship with God.

Paul the Apostle makes the astounding claim in Colossians 1:15 that all things have been created *by the Son* and *for the Son*. When I have read this verse in the past, I have concentrated on the first phrase, “by the Son.” I have read this verse through the filter of John 1:3: “Through him [the Word, Jesus] all things were made that have been made.” When God said, “Let there be . . .” and something came into existence, it was the Word, the Son, who did it. That in itself is a pretty deep concept that is hard to get a handle on. Even more challenging is the second phrase.

I have not thought much about the second phrase, *for the Son*. What does it mean that everything was created for Jesus? I have been created *for Him*. My life exists *for Him*. My purpose in this world is *for Him*. My family, my job, my hobbies, my body, my time, my whole life exists *for Him*. I have been created and I exist so that my life can find meaning in relationship with Jesus Christ. If I find my purpose in any thing other than in Jesus Christ, my life will have a degree of emptiness and futility.

Unfortunately, people attempt to fill this void with other things or persons. The “bad” things of life--like unhealthy habits, the “good” things of life--like family, and even the “neutral”

things--like careers and recreation, eventually become empty and meaningless. They will disappoint. We lose our job, our loved ones get sick, the camper gets in a wreck—it is the way of life. We are always in pursuit of the “more” because what we have is not good enough. We just have to have that big screen plasma TV because it will make it more pleasant to watch movies. We need to work two jobs to pay for the new truck and camper. Our marriage is just not happy anymore and so we look for someone else to satisfy our need to be loved. This attempt to fill the void in our hearts will only disappoint us.

Paul the Apostle had learned that there is only one thing in all creation that can satisfy the deepest hunger of our lives. He wrote, “I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:11-13). Where did he find his contentment? Through Jesus, the source of his strength.

Jesus comes to us, inviting us to a new level of living. By the fact that you are reading this article is an invitation. Big changes don’t happen over night, though you will have make the biggest decision of your life by giving up yourself first. It will cost you everything and yet it will cost you nothing. Jesus said, “If anyone would come after me, let him take up his cross daily and follow me” (Mark 8:34). This “taking up the cross” necessitates living a life of humility before God, of loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and of loving our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:30-31). The problem is that if we try to do this on our own, we will usually end up with skewed love and messed up priorities because our pride will begin to surface and we will turn our love to fulfilling our own desires. Instead of filling the void with Jesus, we find ourselves caught in the trap of a self-focused life. There is only one way to love God, neighbor, and ourselves: through saying “yes” to everyday and

every moment to the Holy Spirit who will speak to us as we fill ourselves with the ways of God (through reading the Bible, fellowship with other believers, and prayer).

Saying “Yes” has profound affect upon the challenges we face everyday. We are not so quick to respond in anger when our hearts are filled with the love of Jesus, which may keep us from losing our job or ruining our marriage. We will put the needs of others first. We will have a peace knowing that we don’t have to have every thing under control. We will invest in those around us for their benefit, not for what we can get out of the relationship. All that God has promised for us and all that we have been created for can be found in saying “Yes” to Him.