

Ole Miss FCA Weekly Devotional: 8/24/09

The Power and Passion of the Master Coach, Elliot Johnson



Thought of the Week:

God Exists

Verse of the Week:

In the beginning... Genesis 1:1

Until his retirement in May of 1989, Mike Schmidt was a great ball player. During nearly two decades with the Philadelphia Phillies, Mike hit 548 home runs and won ten Gold Glove awards as a defensive player! No other third baseman performed with both bat and glove the way Mike performed. He had nothing more to prove to anyone on the baseball field. Mike Schmidt was simply a Hall of Fame player.

Just as Mike Schmidt has nothing more to prove, our Lord has nothing more to prove to anyone in this world either. He is under no obligation to His creation to prove either His existence or any attribute of His wonderful nature!

It is God's nature to exist. The Bible (Genesis 1:1) assumes the existence of God before creation. There was never a time when God did not exist. No one needs to prove His existence, and He is not obligated to prove it to anyone. He simply is! He had no beginning, and He will have no end. No one caused Him to exist or brought Him into existence, for God is the "Uncaused One."

God is completely self-sufficient. He is dependent upon no one. He doesn't need you, me, or any other part of His creation to continue to exist as God. Man is dependent upon God, the Giver of Life. Man is dependent upon the biological resources God gives us (water, air, and food) to survive. Man is also dependent upon other men for support and help. In contrast, God needs nothing to stay alive. It is simply His nature to live. I Thessalonians 1:9 says that God is the living and true God. John 5:29 says that God has life within Himself. Daniel 6:26-27 tells that His kingdom endures forever. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). When Jesus speaks of giving life, He is not speaking of physical existence, but of union with God. To "plug into God," the Source of life, is to gain eternal life. Eternal life means a life of purpose, activity, vitality, and satisfaction. Anything short of a life with God is a cheap substitute for true life. What a tremendous privilege: to know this awesome God!

Furthermore, God is not a rewarder of those who only believe that He exists. The demons believe He exists! God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6) and of those who believe that He is a God of provision (Matthew 6:25-33). He rewards those who believe He is the Lord of all! He rewards those who trust Him for salvation. In Isaiah 45:22, God says, "Turn to me and be saved...for I am God and there is no other."

Only a fool would deny that Mike Schmidt was a highly skilled ball player with Hall of Fame credentials. And only a fool would deny God's existence, His power, and His authority over mankind. Psalm 14:1 records, "The fool not only denies the existence of God, but he also denies the control, provision, and care of God in this world. To deny that God is actively involved in His creation is to deny the very nature of God. Sometimes people who claim to be Christians live as atheists, not trusting God for their lives and for His control in the affairs of the world. Titus 1:15 says, "They profess to know God, but by their deeds (lifestyle) they deny Him". Many are infected with a touch of atheism, because (experientially) they doubt the sovereignty of a holy

and wonderful God in their lives. How shameful to deny His goodness and His care! Our Father deserves much better for His creatures!

In each situation we encounter, we must consciously realize that God does exist. May each of us never fail to trust Him.

Time Out:

- 1) Meditate upon the fact that God has always existed.
- 2) Meditate upon the fact that God is completely sufficient within Himself.
- 3) Note the vast difference between yourself and God by listing the things upon which you depend for existence and enjoyment in life. Imagine what life would be like if you had need of none of these things.
- 4) Have you been made one with God through Jesus Christ so you can truly experience life?
- 5) Are you a professing Christian but a practicing atheist?