

PLEASURE LOVERS OR GOD LOVERS?

By Sherri Josephson

2 Timothy 3:1-5 "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good. Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

I'm concerned about being "lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God." I was recently convicted that my love for pleasures at times is more than my love for God.

What is pleasure? Anything you run to for relaxation, comfort and for peace of mind. You know there are times when I come home from work, being tired and frustrated, I will say "I just want to watch a movie and relax." Or, "Let's go out for some entertainment so I can get away." Relax from what? Get away from whom? I'll tell you! Get away from the stress and pressure that the world puts on us. Situations, people and just life itself pressurizes us so that we feel like we must run or get away from the circumstances. We somehow are duped into thinking that our salvation is another movie, friends or a good book - anything other than Jesus. That's the problem! When we are drained we tend to run to a well that really doesn't satisfy - a cistern that holds no water. We look for the inner healing in things instead of the Healer Jesus.

What we should do is run to the Source, the Life Giver, Jesus. Then, we would be filled to face the situation head on. Have you ever noticed how those other things never satisfy, but always leave you longing? Have you ever felt yourself running? Falling through the days and out of control. Its because we forsake our help, Jesus. We forget our 1st love and become pleasure seekers instead of God soakers.

You know there are reasons that we do some things and a lot of times we can reason ourselves astray with rationals. I can even feel sorry for myself and give a good reason why I don't have time to pray or read my Bible. But God's not really interested in all that - all He cares about is "what did you do with Jesus today"?

I can either be a watcher or a liver of life. We have to choose everyday whether we are going to live today with Jesus as our Lord, Master and Boss or are we choosing to live it alone, feeling sorry for ourselves and wondering how we can escape the stress of the world.

I'll be honest with you - I don't want to just live this life falling through the days waiting for Friday to come. I want to live it out to my full potential being alive to God and dead to everything else. I want to be a lover of God and to be able to say I didn't just exist but I lived and loved with all my heart, mind and soul.