

“Lest We Forget”
By Brother Kenneth Ray
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Galatians 1:1-16 ...an apostle, not of man, neither by man...

Paul greets us in this passage with some very clear info. He makes it clear who he is: An Apostle, not of man, neither by men, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead. Paul is clear in his understanding: Jesus is Lord. It was Jesus who gave Himself for our sins that He might deliver us from this present world. He is telling us, maybe reminding us, of some basic things that we, as people seeking God, need to know. Simply put, Jesus is the source of our salvation.

Participation is the engine of a thriving fellowship, or life in Christ. We have to know who we work for; who carries the heavy load when we think that we're assisting. It's all about God; when God moves, God moves.

Paul doesn't have the power. It's like a bucket. An empty bucket doesn't really do much good by itself; you have to put something in it, like gas, or water, or Gatorade. The bucket is not a source of power. Lest we forget; we're just vessels. God has to move through you. Paul is saying that he's an Apostle, but God is the power. Unless God does something, then nothing is really happening. If God moved when I spoke His Word, I didn't do it; it's Jesus Christ that does everything. Lest we forget, and I start thinking, "Man, I can really pack 'em in the house!" It's really all about Jesus Christ. A basic one on one about Christianity; it's a relationship with God, not coming to church.

How many here know that you are special? Even if you're one of a set of twins, you are different from your twin, you're not really identical. God made you that way. God made you special, even if you don't see it. God don't make no junk. By Him we live, and by Him we can be kept in a state of salvation.

Genesis 2:7 ... into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul...

What's special about dust? nothing. What was special was what happened *after* God formed man from the dust; He breathed the breath of life into him, and he became a living soul. That's what makes us special. The dust just became our skin. In fact, most of the dust around your house is just dead skin. So what does it mean when it says that we are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27)? Is God made of dust?

John 4:24 ...God is a Spirit...

So God is a Spirit, and we have a living soul in the same fashion. You are much more than your physical appearance. It's so easy in our society to get caught up in making sure that you're wearing the right clothes, or the right shoes, or that you're wearing the right hairstyle, but those things do *not* make you special. The good Lord will admire you as His handiwork. A Ford truck is not made in God's image. You know what? I make that screwdriver look good. You're the thing that's special.

Ephesians 4:8 ...he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

What gifts did he give us? Well, he told us in verse eleven:

Ephesians 4:11-12 apostles ... prophets ... evangelists ... pastors, and teachers

So, he not only told *what* He gave us, but also *why* He gave it: For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body. What did He equip us with? He equipped us with ability, whether physical or spiritual, and he told us to go, teach and baptize (Matthew 28:19). He said, “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me.” (John 12:32) We don’t even have to draw them. You just have to teach. You are a bucket, a container (made of dust). He gave you the ability to be the temple of the Holy Ghost (1 Corinthians 6:19). Don’t forget Who’s doing the work. You have to make decisions. Lest we forget.

Galatians 1:6 I marvel that you are so soon removed from Him that called you...

They are not trying to stop you from going to church. They are trying to break that connection that you have with Jesus. Satan is trying to separate you from Jesus. It’s not ‘another’ Gospel, because, without Jesus, there is no Gospel. Some would pervert the message, “Oh, just go to church.” Church is not more important than God.

Galatians 1:11 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached...

I didn’t write these words; I didn’t just make them up.

Galatians 1:12 ...neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

God reveals things to you.

Galatians 1:16 To reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the heathen;

For Paul, what was revealed was that he was to preach. What is it for you?

1 Corinthians 12:28 ...after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments...

If you can’t do anything else, you can help. And I don’t mean that the gift of helps is a lesser gift. If you can make someone’s life easier, that’s awesome. To be a Christian means to be Christ-like. Christ said that he came here to be about His Father’s business. If you claim to be Christ-like, don’t be about Kenneth Ray’s business; don’t be about Christian Fellowship’s business, be about your Father’s business. Let God be God.

Hebrews 10:39 ...not of them who draw back into perdition...

If we forget, or if we draw back, then others may not see Christ in us. We will not live life to the fullness, or the specialness, that God intended. Use your gifts. Make full proof of thy ministry—certify it. Stop quoting the Bible so much, and live it.