

SELF MADE OR GOD MADE?

Greetings precious people, this week we will explore the question of whether or not you consider yourself to be a self made man or woman. Many in our society like to think of themselves as being self made men or women. They are proud of various accomplishments and achievements that they have reached often against unfavorable circumstances and events. This way of thinking is nothing new to our age and society; it has existed since the fall of man.

The Word of God the Bible is full of instances of this arrogance and pride. One such instance was the king of Babylon whose name was Nebuchadnezzar. As the Bible tells us “The heart of a king is as water in God’s hand, He turns it whatever way He desires, He raises one to power and brings another down.” Nebuchadnezzar found this out the hard way.

In Daniel 4:28-33, “All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of the twelve months he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon. The king spoke, saying, “Is not this great Babylon, that **I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?**” While the word was still in the king’s mouth, a voice fell from heaven: “King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you! And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.” That very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles’ feathers and his nails like birds’ claws.”

God in His rich grace and mercy restored Nebuchadnezzar to his right mind and kingship after 7 years of insanity.

There was another man years later that also thought more highly of himself than he ought to have, his name was Saul, later known as the Apostle Paul. Before meeting Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus he was proud and self righteous. He gives a brief summation of this in Philippians 3:4-6, “Though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.”

But then Paul met Jesus and came to the following realization, Philippians 3:7-9, “But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith.”

Paul would also write to the Corinthians on this matter and say in 1 Corinthians 15:10, “But by the grace of God I am what I am.”

Oh how we like to think of ourselves as something great, better than others but God makes it clear that anything “good” that we may have or be is only because of the goodness and kindness of God. There is great danger in thinking of ourselves more

highly than we ought. God hates pride; He resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. It is the kindness of the Lord that we are not consumed; it is His kindness that leads men to repentance.

Do you recognize and acknowledge this before the Almighty God or are you still thinking that you are what you are because of what you have done for yourself?

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