

June 20, 2018



WE WILL PARTICIPATE!

Are you thankful for the day and age that we live in? We have technology that enables us to do things almost unthinkable a century ago. In less than 24 hours we can fly an airplane to virtually anywhere in the world. Satellite television allows broadcasts to be transmitted around the world without having to go to those countries. Now handheld devices can instantly send and receive live videos from around the world. These can be great tools to enrich our experiences and glorify the Lord when used correctly. That is the key. They must be used correctly. Often, they are not. When these tools are not utilized as they should be, we go through life as a spectator and do not accomplish God's will for us. Some do so even without these advances. We refuse to do this. No, we will participate in everything that God has for us in this life.

1 Corinthians 9:23-27 ESV I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. (24) Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. (25) Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. (26) So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. (27) But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

The Apostle Paul, in the above passage, describes his efforts to truly participate in what God is doing in the earth so that he would receive his reward from the Father. You have a reward awaiting you as well, but you are going to have to participate with what God is doing in the earth in order to acquire it. Remember that as a man thinks in his heart so is he, Proverbs 23:7. This, therefore, starts with a certain way of thinking:

1. Think Purpose

As you go about your life, never lose sight of your purpose. Many have told me that even after years of going to church services they do not yet know what God would have them to do with their lives. It does not have to be this way. Starting seeking Him and He will reveal your purpose to you. See Matthew 7:7. Once you know your purpose, meditate on it. Think about it daily. Envision yourself fulfilling it. You will see all kinds of opportunities in your life that will enable you to fulfill your purpose. No matter if they start small, seize them. This gets you out of your "spectator chair" and participating in "the game".

2. Think Application

When I entered into higher education, I saw a grave danger that many of colleagues and instructors were falling into. It remains a peril today. They were getting extremely caught up in abstract information and theories about the Bible and church life. This took them away from what was really important – practical application. I encourage you to study everyday. Acquire as much knowledge of God's Word as you can. However, constantly seek the LORD as to how you use what you are getting in your life. Then, you will be actively participating in what God is saying to you.

3. Think Impact

A participator is continually looking for ways to impact the world around them. If you are to be such a one, you need to refuse to have a defeatist mentality. You cannot see the world as too far gone or yourself as unable to do anything about it. Look at problems in your world and pray about how to bring solutions. You are to be an agent of change. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, you are well able to transform the world around you. Will you? The choice is yours. Participate.

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