

WE ARE NOT "SITUATIONAL" PEOPLE

We tend to allow human nature to make us complain about our situations and miss the big picture - Num 11:4-6 - 4 The **RABBLE** with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started **WAILING** and said, "If only we had meat to eat! 5 **We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost** — also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. 6 But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!"

The problem is we tend to deal with things based on "good" defined by us - Judg 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right IN HIS OWN EYES. ESV

A good question for us all to ask ourselves is what is the foundation for our Christian walk? -Job 1:9-11 - 9 "**DOES JOB FEAR GOD FOR NOTHING?**" Satan replied. 10 "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. 11 But **stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.**"

God informed us that life is not going to go as "it seems" it should - Eccl 9:11-12 - 11 I have seen something else under the sun: The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favor to the learned; but **TIME AND CHANCE HAPPEN TO THEM ALL.** 12 Moreover, no man knows when HIS HOUR will come: As fish are caught in a cruel net, or birds are taken in a snare, so men are trapped by EVIL TIMES that fall **UNEXPECTEDLY** upon them.

We are commanded to accept the life status and situations we are given and live DESPITE them, not because of them -1 Cor 7:17-24 -17 Nevertheless, each one should retain the PLACE IN LIFE that the Lord assigned to him and to which God has called him. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches. 18 Was a man already circumcised when he was called? He should not become uncircumcised. Was a man uncircumcised when he was called? He should not be circumcised. 19 **Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing***. **KEEPING GOD'S COMMANDS IS WHAT COUNTS.** 20 Each one should remain in the **SITUATION** which he was in when God called him. 21 Were you a slave when you were called? Don't LET IT trouble you — although if you can gain your freedom, do so. 22 For he who was a slave when he was called by the Lord is the LORD'S FREEDMAN; similarly, he who was a free man when he was called is CHRIST'S SLAVE**. 23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. 24 Brothers, each man, AS RESPONSIBLE TO GOD, should remain in the situation God called him to. (**in God stating that it is nothing means it should have NO affect on our Christian walk) (**We are to serve God in any situation)

We MUST realize, that no matter the situation, part of our Spiritual growth depends on how we deal with all situations - Phil 2:14-16 - 14 Do EVERYTHING without complaining or arguing, 15 **SO THAT you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe 16 as you hold out the word of life — in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing.**

If not Careful; what we SEE as BAD situations may really be very important situations in our lives. Such as:

Painful situations

Heb 12:7 ENDURE HARDSHIP as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?

Heb 12:11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it **PRODUCES** a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Trying situations - James 1:2-4 - 2 **CONSIDER IT PURE JOY,** my brothers, WHENEVER you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith DEVELOPS perseverance. 4 **PERSEVERANCE MUST FINISH ITS WORK** so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Situations that cause suffering - Rom 5:3-5 - 3 Not only so, but we also **REJOICE IN OUR SUFFERINGS,** because we know that suffering PRODUCES perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Situations to save me from depending on me - 2 Cor 1:8-9 - 8 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, *far beyond our ability to endure*, so that we despaired even of life. 9 Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might **NOT RELY ON OURSELVES BUT ON GOD**, who raises the dead.

A hard situation may be exactly what I need to truly access God's strength by removing me - 2 Cor 12:9 But he said to me, "My grace is SUFFICIENT for you, for MY POWER is made perfect in weakness."*

MAKING SURE WE ARE NOT SITUATIONAL PEOPLE

Contentment is a must in our Christian walk - 1 Tim 6:6-8 - 6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

We all have access to contentment, but we must access it - Phil 4:11-13 - 11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for **I HAVE LEARNED to be content whatever the circumstances**. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. **I HAVE LEARNED THE SECRET OF BEING CONTENT IN ANY AND EVERY SITUATION**, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 **I CAN DO EVERYTHING THROUGH HIM WHO GIVES ME STRENGTH**. * (My relationships, money, state of mind & situations can never be my strength, Only my Lord and Savior can be my strength!)

Absolutely NOTHING down here can be the purpose - 1 Cor 7:29-31 - 29 What I mean, brothers, is that the time is short. **FROM NOW ON** those who have wives should live AS IF they had none; 30 those who mourn, AS IF they did not; those who are happy, AS IF they were not; those who buy something, AS IF it were not theirs to keep; 31 those who use the things of the world, AS IF not engrossed in them. For this world in its **present form** is passing away.

Do not be misled with how it seems now, but lean on what HE says is going to happen later and forever - Eccl 8:12 Although a wicked man commits a hundred crimes and still lives a long time, I know that it will go better with God-fearing men, who are reverent before God.

We must BE WISE, NOT FOOLISH, in all situations to truly be used by God - Eph 5:15-17 - 15 **BE VERY CAREFUL, THEN, HOW YOU LIVE** — not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because **the days are evil**. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Make sure we assess and fix our relationships with the world - James 4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world IS hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world **BECOMES AN ENEMY OF GOD**.

We MUST make sure we are living Spiritually focused all the time! –

Rom 8:5-8 - 5 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. 6 The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; 7 the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, NOR CAN IT DO SO. 8 Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

Rom 8:12-13 - 12 Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation — but **IT IS NOT to the sinful nature**, to live according to it. 13 For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live,

Let us keep our Spiritual eyes open not to be situationally misled - Ps 49:5-15 - 5 Why should I fear when evil days come, when wicked deceivers surround me — 6 those who trust in their wealth and boast of their great riches? 7 No man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him — 8 the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough — 9 that he should live on forever and not see decay. 10 For all can see that wise men die; the foolish and the senseless alike perish and leave their wealth to others. 11 Their tombs will remain their houses forever, their dwellings for endless generations, though they had named lands after themselves. 12 But man, despite his riches, does not endure; he is like the beasts that perish. 13 **THIS IS THE FATE OF THOSE WHO TRUST IN THEMSELVES, AND OF THEIR FOLLOWERS, WHO APPROVE THEIR SAYINGS**. Selah 14 Like sheep they are destined for the grave, and death will feed on them. The upright will rule over them in the morning; their forms will decay in the grave, far from their princely mansions. 15 **BUT GOD WILL REDEEM MY LIFE FROM THE GRAVE; HE WILL SURELY TAKE ME TO HIMSELF**.