



FRANKLIN ROAD

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NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1, 2014

PREVENTING VS AWARENESS; TWO VERY DIFFERENT WORDS

I WAS HAVING A CONVERSATION WITH MY WIFE, LIZ, AND WE WERE DISCUSSING HER GRAVES DISEASE AND OTHER KNOWN ILLNESSES (CANCER, ETC.), AND SHE MENTIONED THAT WITH ALL OF THE CANCER AWARENESS MONTHS SHOULDN'T THERE BE A CANCER PREVENTION MONTH? LETTING PEOPLE KNOW WHAT SOME OF THE LEADING CAUSES OF CANCER ARE AND HOW TO AVOID THEM.

NOW HOLD THAT THOUGHT. . .

I WAS WITH SOME TEENS THE OTHER NIGHT AND A QUESTION WAS ASKED, "COULD YOU GIVE UP JUNK FOOD IF YOU KNEW YOU WOULD LIVE 10 MORE YEARS"? VARIOUS ANSWERS WERE:

1. PROBABLY NOT
2. NO!
3. IF I WAS FALLING OFF A CLIFF COULD I YELL OUT "I GIVE UP JUNK FOOD" AND THEN BE OK?
4. MAYBE. ARE OREOS JUNK FOOD?

NOW BACK TO MY ORIGINAL THOUGHT. I SAID TO LIZ, I DON'T THINK PEOPLE WOULD CARE AFTER THE "PREVENTION" MONTH WAS OVER. WE LIVE IN A SOCIETY THAT WANTS TO SEE RESULTS. WE LIVE IN A SOCIETY THAT LOVES TO SEE PRO-ATHLETES VISIT SICK CHILDREN, ELLEN DEGENERES GIVE TO SICK MOMS, AND DONATING TO CERTAIN CAUSES.

BUT WHAT IF THEY WERE NOT SICK? WELL OF COURSE THEY WOULD BE HEALTHY, BUT WOULDN'T THAT BE A LITTLE BORING? THERE IS A WHOLE TV SHOW DEDICATED TO WATCHING PEOPLE LOSE WEIGHT – WHERE IS THE SHOW ABOUT HEALTHY PEOPLE REMAINING HEALTHY. .IT DOESN'T SELL HERE.

I FEAR AN ASPECT OF THIS HAS INFILTRATED THE CHURCH. I FEAR THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO USE SUNDAY MORNINGS LIKE AN AWARENESS MONTH, AND AFTER THE MONTH IS OVER THEY HAVE DONE NOTHING ABOUT IT.

THE SCRIPTURES HAVE NOT BEEN GIVEN TO JUST MAKE BELIEVERS AWARE OF WHAT GOD DESIRES, BUT THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO PREVENT BELIEVERS FROM DOING WHAT SATAN DESIRES (WHICH IS GOD'S DESIRE – TO TURN FROM *YOUR FORMER LUSTS WHICH WERE YOURS IN YOUR IGNORANCE* – **1 PETER 1:14**).

GOD'S DESIRE IS FOR US TO TURN AWAY FROM SATAN AND FOCUS ON HIM SOLELY. THE PROBLEM IS EVERYONE SEEMS TO BE AWARE OF WHAT SATAN CAN DO - THERE ARE FEWER WHO SEEM TO BE PREVENTING IT IN THEIR OWN LIVES.

UNFORTUNATELY, PREVENTING TO SOME PEOPLE IS LIKE GIVING UP JUNK FOOD – THEY KNOW THEY SHOULD, BUT AS LONG AS THEY ARE SAVED WHAT MATTER DOES IT MAKE?

THEY HAVE A PROBLEM SEEING THE RESULTS OF: **PHILIPPIANS 4:8** - BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WHATEVER IS TRUE, WHATEVER IS NOBLE, WHATEVER IS RIGHT, WHATEVER IS PURE, WHATEVER IS LOVELY, WHATEVER IS ADMIRABLE—IF ANYTHING IS EXCELLENT OR PRAISEWORTHY—THINK ABOUT SUCH THINGS.

WHAT ARE THE RESULTS? HAVING THESE WORDS SPOKEN – **MATTHEW 25:23** - 'WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT. YOU WERE FAITHFUL WITH A FEW THINGS; I WILL PUT YOU IN CHARGE OF MANY THINGS'.

THE RESULTS ARE NOT FOR THE NOW, THEY ARE FOR THE FOREVER. KEEP PREVENTING, I PRAY, KEEP PREVENTING.

PASTOR ANDY