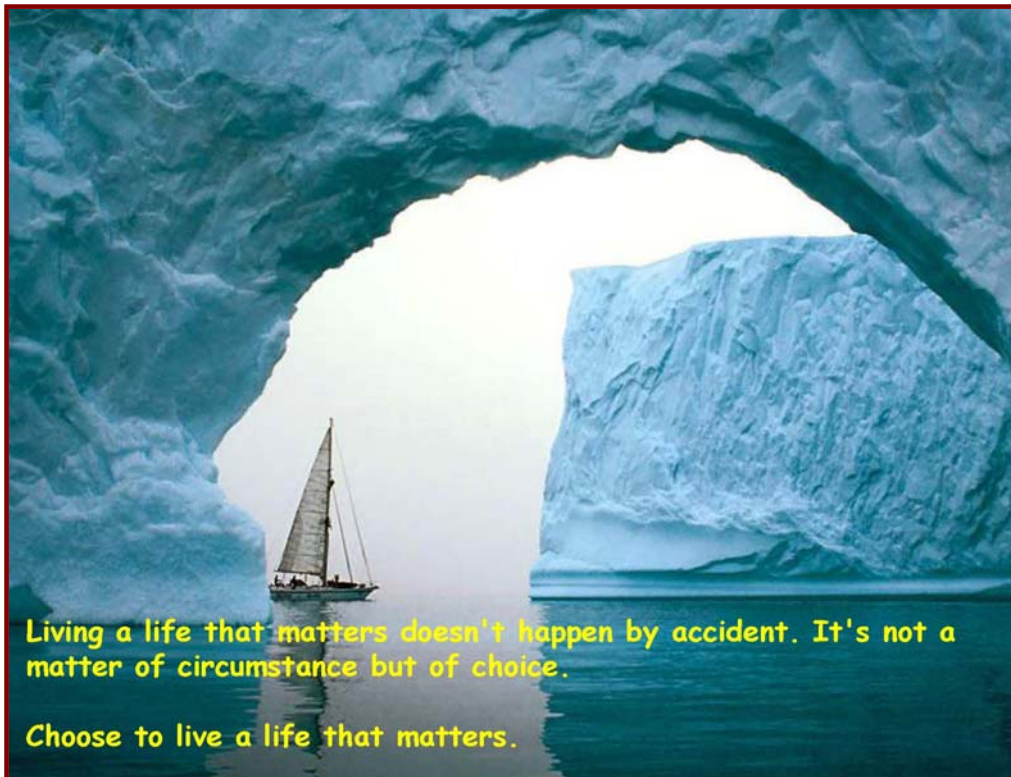


Melva's Corner

WHY ARE WE SO UNHAPPY WITH WHERE WE ARE?



Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident. It's not a matter of circumstance but of choice.

Choose to live a life that matters.

Tapping the Source of Power

Central Truth: We should plug into our spiritual source of power and just make it happen!

Sometimes I tend to look to my past and remember "the good old days" and compare them to today. I remember churches where I have worshipped, friendships I have had, works in which I have been involved, and think, "I sure wish I could go back there again" or "I sure wish it could be like that again." I've been guilty of sometimes doing this to the point that I forget my present journey or overlook the opportunities in the place where I am.

If we believe that God opens doors and directs steps, then why are we so unhappy with where we are? Why in our hearts do we turn back to Egypt?

The Israelites remembered the good things they experienced in Egypt to the point of forgetting how bad things were for them as slaves there. They rebelled against God and where He was directing their journey. In fact, they rejected the journey, they rejected where they were and they ended up rejecting God's instructions and in that rejected God.

Contrast that with the description of the Apostle Paul and his struggle in life:

"I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be. No, dear brothers and sisters, I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven" (Philippians 3:12-14).

The next time we are tempted to compare the present with the past, might I suggest that we stop ourselves and try to refocus on the present. We have so many blessings, but we also have so much work to do. Let's focus on making these days "the good old days." Let's build relationships and churches and love the way we should and stop turning back to Egypt in our hearts. Let us do as Paul did. Let's forget the past, look forward, and strain to reach the prize God has for us!

The best way to improve the past is to live the way God wants us to live today, rooted in the moment and living for God — in service to others and in service to Him.

Scriptural References:

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energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven . . . You who are mature Christians will agree on these things.” (Philippians 3:12-15 NLT)