

Others, Lord, yes, others, Let this
my motto be: Help me to live for
others that I may live like thee.

Lord, help me live from day to
day in such a self-forgetful way,
that even when I kneel to pray,
my prayer shall be for others.

Help me in all the work I do to ever
be sincere and true and know that all
I'd do for you must needs be done
for others.

Let "Self" be crucified and slain and
buried deep. And all in vain may
efforts be to rise again unless to live
for others.

And when my work on earth is done,
and my new work in heaven's
begun, may I forget the crown I've
won, while thinking still of others.

Others, Lord, yes, others, Let this my
motto be: Help me to live for others
that I may live like thee.

- CD Meigs-

As you think about your
relationship with others, as Meigs
so elegantly puts it in the hymn,
we are reminded of Scriptures
that teach us about our
relationship.

Phil 2:5 Have this attitude in yourselves
which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who,
although He existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God a thing
to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself,
taking the form of a bond_servant, and
being made in the likeness of men. 8
And being found in appearance as a man,
He humbled Himself by becoming
obedient to the point of death, even death
on a cross.

Matt 20:25 But Jesus called them to Himself, and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. 26 "It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, 27 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

You might think about the attitude which accompanies these thoughts and what the results are going to be in your life.

There are even broader implications of these simple truths found in God's word.

“History is driven over the long haul,
by culture – by what men and women
honor, cherish, and worship; by what
societies deem to be true and good and
noble; by the expressions they give to
those convictions in language, literature
and the arts; by what individual and
societies are willing to stake their lives
on.” – G Weigel

Solzhenitsyn pointed out, “ The failings of human consciousness, deprived of its divine dimension, have been a determining factor in all the major crimes of this century. ... World War I, World War II .. The only possible explanation for this is a mental eclipse among the leaders of Europe due to their lost awareness of a Supreme Power above them.”

Europe has lost its faith in God and has become a secular state in which no mention of God is made in public and where the people in the street are amazed that religion intrudes on the lives of those in the US.

The problem is that such conditions can easily become the norm in our society as we see religious groups around us move into a secular mindset. Their focus is not to save man from sin but to fit the Scriptures to their idea of what God should have done.

Whether it's the Episcopalian church reaffirming its stand on approving practicing men and women homosexuals as Bishops or the AME church appointing a woman Bishop, the result is to deny that we have a complete revelation which does not change with the political climate.

2 Pet 1:3 seeing that His divine
power has granted to us
everything pertaining to life and
godliness, through the true
knowledge of Him who called us
by His own glory and excellence.

In making fun of the huge number of different churches in the US, the population and the leaders of Europe justify their “reason” and “enlightenment” without pausing to think where these came from.

Those in places of authority who do not seek God have inserted an atheistic secularization which led to the “crisis of civilization” leading to the moral crisis which the wars fought in Europe in the last century emphasize.

Can this happen here? It depends
on whether we recognize the
value of “others”.

Who are these others?

Jesus taught the principles of brotherhood and caring for others, regardless of their station in life in the parable of the “Good Samaritan”.

Luk 10:25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" (26) "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" (27) He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (28) "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." (29) But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Luk 10:30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. (31) A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. (32) So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. (33) But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.

(34) He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. (35) The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' (36) "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" (37) The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

This caring Samaritan was posed in answer to a question asked by a lawyer – “and who is my neighbor?” He was really asking who is the “other” whom I should love (serve)?

We are surrounded by those who are focused on self and the pleasures of this world. As children of God, we have chosen goodness.

A true Christian's focus is on helping others.

As Meigs said in his poem, “Help
me in all the work I do to ever be
sincere and true and know that all
I’d do for you must needs be done
for others.”

1 Cor 13:1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

God does not advise us to fail to speak,
to fail to know, to have a weak faith, or
fail to help the poor and deny ourselves
to help others. He tells us we must do
these things because we care just as He
and the Father cared.

We must adjust our attitude to one of caring
(loving) others.

Php 4:8 Finally, 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.

Phil 3:8 More than that, I count
all things to be loss in view of the
surpassing value of knowing
Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I
have suffered the loss of all
things, and count them but
rubbish in order that I may gain
Christ,

Again, “History is driven over the long haul, by culture – by what men and women honor, cherish, and worship; by what societies deem to be true and good and noble; by the expressions they give to those convictions in language, literature and the arts; by what individual and societies are willing to stake their lives on.” – G Weigel

Phil 4:8 Finally, brethren,
whatever is true, whatever is
honorable, whatever is right,
whatever is pure, whatever is
lovely, whatever is of good
repute, if there is any excellence
and if anything worthy of praise,
let your mind dwell on these
things.

That's the kind of society in which I want to live and die. It's what I want for my children and grandchildren.

In order to have the kind of society in which we serve others, the values you and I cherish from the word of God must be those we share with others and that we convince them to share as well.

It is only by acknowledging the God of heaven and the revelation of His Son to mankind that we can truly participate in making and keeping such a society.

Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified." (37) Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" (38) And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.