

Lifelines

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Topic: Eternal Life

Life is Who You Know!

By Ed Jordan

Once upon a time, the civilized world was on a quest for knowledge. Now they are on a quest for violence. Once the people of the world longed to know love. Now there is a growing appetite for hatred. Once upon a time, a college education produced thinking people, who wanted to make the world a better place. Today, too many colleges are producing clones, who can't even look objectively at facts, let alone think through such facts.

I miss sanity, and mutual respect. One of the greatest honors I have had in my life, was to live for a decade in Hungary, beginning right after the Iron Curtain collapsed. Our children both went to Hungarian schools, which were places of learning. And wow, that country produces some of the smartest people on the planet. Those who got university degrees there were walking encyclopedias. Their minds were trained to learn facts in every subject they could.

My having a doctorate opened many doors of learning, dialoguing, and comradery. I was privileged to become friends with many exceptional college professors, and with one member of the Hungarian Academy of Science, as well as a professor from Scotland who won international acclaim for proposing the benefit of using aspirin for the heart. The many dialogues we all had learning from each other, is what universities here should be doing, instead of indoctrinating students to hate our country.

You see, life is really more about *who* you know, than *what* you know. I am a fan of learning and thinking, but not a fan of learning without learning how to think. I am also not a fan of people using violence and threats to force others to capitulate to their viewpoint. Perhaps that is why I am a Christian.

Jesus is the smartest human who ever lived, precisely because He was God who became human. John 1:14 (NLT) states: "So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son."

Jesus was beyond brilliant. He was also full of love. As a twelve year old, he slipped away from his family and was later found in the Temple, teaching the intellectual elite things that they did not know (see Luke 2:41-51). He healed many people, He taught people about God, His Father. He taught people that we were created to love one another in the same way that Jesus loved us (John 13:34-35). He confronted the elite leaders who were manipulating and fleecing the masses. Jesus loved people, and the love He gave to others helped create value and self-worth in those whom He loved.

In John 17, Jesus was approaching the day that the leaders who were threatened by His existence planned to use a mock trial to convict Him of false charges, and lead Him to a hill called Calvary, to be ruthlessly nailed to a cross, hung naked before the world, and die. Evil is like that. It lies, destroys, and eliminates those who speak the truth (John 10:10).

John 17 is Jesus' prayer to His Father in Heaven, to bless and empower those who were His friends and followers. In 17:3 we find the verse that inspired this column, as Jesus prayed for His friends: "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." (John 17:3 NASB95).

God is the source of eternal life, Jesus is the embodiment of eternal life, and knowing God and Jesus personally is how to experience eternal life. Having a personal relationship with Jesus, whom God sent, is eternal life. The life that lasts forever, full of all the blessings of life, is available in Jesus personally. He is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6).

What is eternal life? It is knowing and loving God. It is living in a personal relationship with the God who created us, and the God who rescued us. Need love? Jesus is love. Need forgiveness? Jesus provides forgiveness. Need security? When you are in the hand of Jesus and the hand of God, nothing in the universe can take you away from God (John 10:27-30).

Jesus is waiting to hear from you. Why not pray to Him now, saying: "Jesus, I need you. I want to know you, and experience a life lived with God. Forgive me for my sins. Come into my life and fill me with your presence and love. Thank you. Amen."

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