

MULTI-TASKING FOR RELAXATION

Z*eitgeist* means “the ideas prevailing at a given time.” 19th century German philosopher Georg Hegel, a hero to Marx and Engels, coined *zeitgeist* – literally, “time spirit.” The 1920s’ spirit was “roaring.” The ‘30s were “depression.” The ‘40s were “bipolar” (War and Peace).

DISCUSS: (a) What’s America’s mood now, and why? (b) What’s your frame of mind these days, and why?

John Eldredge wrote *WILD AT HEART*, a war cry for millions of men. In his CD, “The Spirit of the Age,” he names his *zeitgeist* for this era. And it’s not: partisanship gone wild, corporate greed, politically correct tolerance, secular humanism or even terrorism.

Eldredge says today’s spirit is Drivenness. **DISCUSS: He warns of “the danger of success.” What’s that; has it affected you?**

“THE ULTIMATE DRIVEN MACHINE”

I’ve long been a busyness addict. You too? Eldredge dubs it “the leading *substitute* for *significance*.” Why, we even get a buzz from double-booking ourselves...while on the freeway...shaving.

Jesus drew huge crowds on earth. His mentees needed Him to leverage His star power, do more miracles, get a website, advertise! But at day’s end Jesus retreated to chill and check in with His Dad.

Jesus calls us, saying, “My yoke is easy; My burden light.” But alpha males hear, “Yoke’s over easy; Coors lite.” What He really said is:

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me, and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me, work with me, watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."
(Matthew 11:28-30)

DISCUSS: What are you yoked to; how’s it working for you?

Jesus unmasks busyness, revealing what it’s covering up:

Jesus entered a village. A woman by the name of Martha welcomed him and made him feel quite at home. She had a sister, Mary, who sat before the Master, hanging on every word he said. But Martha was pulled away by all she had to do in the kitchen. Later, she stepped in, interrupting them. "Master, don't you care that my sister has abandoned the kitchen to me? Tell her to lend me a hand." The Master said, "Martha, dear Martha,

you're fussing far too much and getting yourself worked up over nothing. One thing only is essential, and Mary has chosen it - it's the main course, and won't be taken from her." (Luke 10:38-42)

DISCUSS: How do you fend off pressures which conspire to get your focus off “the main thing?”

New Testament author, Paul, says this about drivenness:

So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue things over which Christ presides. Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that's where the action is. See things from his perspective.

... don't do the minimum that will get you by. Do your best. Work from the heart for your real Master for God, confident that you'll get paid in full when you come into your inheritance. Keep in mind that the ultimate Master you're serving is Christ. (Colossians 3)

DISCUSS: If you were to ask God right now what life He wants you to lead,” what d’ya think He’d say?”

Paul sketches “the life God wants you to lead,” closing with either the most reassuring news you’ll ever hear, or the most ominous:

God wants you to live a pure life. ... God hasn't invited us into a disorderly, unkempt life but into something holy, as beautiful on the inside as the outside.

...Regarding getting along with each other, you don't need me to tell you what to do. You're God-taught in these matters. Just love one another!

...Make it your goal to live a quiet life, minding your own business and working with your hands, just as we instructed you before. Then people who are not Christians will respect the way you live, and you will not need to depend on others.

...We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4

God’s offer puts “No interest, no payments ‘til 2017” to shame:

"When you come looking for me, you'll find me. Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else, I'll make sure you won't be disappointed."
(Jeremiah 29:13)

Have you staked your life – and eternal destiny -- on *that* promise?
If not, what promise *have* you staked it on?

His Deal

www.HisDeal.org

george@HisDeal.org

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