

What Am I Doing Here?

Blue and I ran through the curves of Hwy 78, toward Merrimac, and took one of the side roads to the top of the Baraboo Bluffs, between Devil's Lake and Portage. When we gained the level of the ridge line, I pulled off the road and sat on top of the bluffs, staring out over the expanse of beauty that is Central Wisconsin. I could see Lake Wisconsin below, and imagined that, through the light haze I could see farms and ranches, all the way to the Capitol in Madison over on the southern horizon. Life has been such a hurry of events and appointments that I have hardly taken the time to look at the world God made for us to enjoy. Often while riding, I am concentrating so much on the road, traffic, and critters that I fail to notice the awakening of life from the dormancy of a long, cold winter. There are other times when my mind is distracted by problems and burdens that I intended to leave on the side of the road. If I am not careful, the life that comes forth in nature is forgotten in the drudgery of everyday . . . drudgery!

It is easy to forget why we are here on this earth. I believe that part of God's plan and purpose for my life is to ride Ol' Blue through these hills, and to enjoy the world God has planted me in. When I hang out at events with other bikers; when I pray for God's blessing and protection over those riding that day; I know that I am there because God has planned it for me. He put me on this earth to enjoy His creation, and to honor Him for it. Often the burdens of everyday life blind us to the treasure that is all around us by God's hand. Sometimes we are so separated from God that we cannot enjoy His handiwork without feeling the pangs of that alienation. Kind of like my friend who is so anxious to crawl aboard his motorcycle and get out in the wind, but can't - it's in the shop. Another is "bikeless" right now, and fumbling for that feeling of enjoyment he's missed. Many of us face the same predicament concerning our loss of fellowship with God. We think can't see or enjoy the world around us without some kind of "outside stimulation." We grope for answers that cannot be found apart from coming back to God. Not going back to "religion," coming back to GOD!

A truck driver quoted my tee-shirt to me this morning. You've had that happen to you, right? I wasn't even aware of the shirt I had on, but it carried a message that caught the

driver's attention, "If I have to explain, you wouldn't understand." He laughed, because he didn't understand. I sometimes do the same thing when I haven't got a clue, but in respect to

how God wants to deal with us, it is no laughing matter. God does intend that we enjoy his creation by means of riding our motorcycles through it. He gave us the ability to ride, and blessed mankind with the ability to imagine and produce a two-wheeled vehicle which can take your breath away. (It is the Devil that has engineered us to do the things that take life away.) Where do you think the expression "AWE-some" came from? It's all about God-things. There are some things we will not understand until we learn to trust in and rely upon God completely. But when we do, the very Life of God takes up residence in us, and gives us the ability to see and enjoy the beauty around us in nature, and even in other human beings. I can't explain to you how or why He does this, and if I could, you still wouldn't really understand until you let Him make His home in you. The exhilaration of the motorcycle is nothing compared to the WOW of Jesus Christ living in you. Let go! Hold on! Whatever it takes!



Tell me, what kind of bike do you ride? A Harley? A Honda? A Moto Guzzi? Did you know that you can KNOW what brand of motorcycle you are riding? Get off and look at it. V-Twin? Horizontally Opposed something-or-other? What's that writing on the tank? The side-cover? The side of the engine? Check the frame - the ID#. Where did you buy it, and what did they tell you it was? The Bible is also pretty clear about this added dimension of Life that is available to all who will turn from sin and turn to God. The verse below indicates that we may check ourselves to see if we have the Lord or not:

"Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?--unless indeed you fail to meet the test!" 2Corinthians 13:5

You know it's time to wake up and smell the coffee, . . . or, the flowers, . . . or, the fresh breeze blowing over the bluffs off of Lake Wisconsin.

Pastor Sam Downey
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