

Getting Used To It

Our airplane ascended to thirty thousand feet. I was engrossed in reading when I casually looked out the window to the ground far below. Wow! I was astounded by the beauty I beheld. I saw a winding river, trees in miniature like a toy train set display, houses, barns, green fields and neatly planted and sectioned crops. I then looked out to the deep blue sky and billowy clouds that surrounded me and thought to myself how beautiful this - but I have gotten used to it. Throughout life we find this human nature trait has a tendency to affect all of us.

1. We get used to the dark.

Have you ever noticed when you walk into a dimly lit room such as a restaurant, you can't see a thing? Then you are escorted to your seat (by faith) and eventually your eyes adjust and you can even see well enough to read your menu. You have gotten used to the dark. Many a bar or dive is immersed in the dark. Although your eyes adjust to a degree, there are some things you do not see - the alcohol stains on the linens, the etched lines on the person's face in front of you or the unhappy countenances of the people by whom you are surrounded. Job described a people like this, "*...the people of the earth...(who)...wander in a wilderness where there is no way. They grope in the dark without light, and he maketh them to stagger like a drunken man*" (Job 12:25). The only thing worse than an introduction into a life of profligacy is getting used to it. To accept that lifestyle as normal is inviting a most distorted view of life that doesn't recognize the need for repentance. There were two drunks who had just spent an evening and early part of the morning in a bar. When they exited at approximately two in the morning, one of them threw his head up in the air breathing deeply and asked, "What is that I smell?" His friend replied, "Fresh air!"

Let us pray that God would keep us aware of the creeping darkness over us and those we love and that we would pray for deliverance from the evil darkness. "*But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light*" (1 Peter 2:9).

2. We get used to the glory.

God's Word says, "*Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light*" (Ephesians 5:1,8). The admonition from Peter is, God has brought you into light; now respond accordingly. Live like you are in the light! I have had residents of Alaska and those who live close to the Arctic Circle tell me that at midnight the sun is as bright as in the afternoon at certain times of the year. They explain how they get used to it and sim-

to Eli, *"Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and mine offering...and honourest thy sons above me...?...Be it far from me; for them that honourest me I will honor...."*

The danger of getting used to the glory is that eventually the glory departs (I Samuel 14: 22). The Bible says of King Ahab who continued the sins perpetrated before him, *"And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam..."* (I Kings 16:31). It is not long after we get used to the glory, that we get used to the dark that we have invited into our life.

3. Let's not get used to it!

When we see the approach of sin, let us view it from God's vantage point. Paul said, *"Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful"* (Romans 7:13). We should always categorize even the approach of sin as "exceeding sinful." I Thessalonians 5:22 reminds us, *"Abstain from all appearance of evil."* This is the way to keep from getting used to the dark.

On the other hand, let us never get used to being right with God and basking in the glory of God. Many of the expressions we use have their roots in the Bible. Have you ever said, "This is so good, I can hardly stand it"? I would not be surprised if that expression came from I Kings 8:10,11, *"And it came to pass when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord, So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD."* In this instance, God's presence was so overwhelming that they could only prostrate themselves before His glory. My prayer is that God will be so real in the lives of our people, that we too will not be able to stand it.

One of our church members lived very near the train tracks when he was growing up. The train came by regularly and often. He explained that he and his family adjusted themselves and adapted to the environment. Although the train was loud, noisy and strong enough to shake his house, he and his family continued with life as though it were not there. They ate, played and slept all within the circumference of this overwhelming sound, sight and shaking. One day however, a catastrophe took place. A neighbor, being used to the clamor, ignored the loud blast of the train's horn and the rumbling of the pavement below his feet and casually without thinking walked right into the path of the speeding locomotive. His death was a sad but true commentary to the danger of "getting used to it."

Let us be determined to stay aware, stay awake and never get used to sin and never get used to the greatness and glory of God!