

## “To Hungry Souls”

My grandfather was a mechanic in a small town in Iowa. He knew car engines so well that he knew a problem just by sitting in the car and listening to it. Of all the things that he taught me about cars, I am most appreciative of the skill to change the oil. The car engine would only work properly if you took care of the oil.

My impression is that we are living through a very contentious period. I hear complaints about government overreach and religious liberty. I read about social ills and political fabrications. With all the pressing problems, I can see an element of truth in all that is proposed as a solution. Like some, I am tired of wars and rumors of wars. Like others, I am discontented and looking for something entirely different than what I read in the papers.

At the same time, I think I have something to share because there are many hungry souls today. Of course, I have no expectation that anyone will listen to my suggestion. I am simply asking you to consider what I write by turning from your discontentment and turning to a word from God. You see, while I sympathize with those who suggest that we should deal first with political involvement, it seems to me that what first brought these pressing problems is found within the soul of man and our relationship to God.

I do not mean to suggest that God is an instrument to attain worldly goals. God must not be used by those who have no interest in him. I also do not suggest that God has no concern about the affairs of the pressing problems. This would be to deny the second greatest commandment, which is to love your neighbor. Instead, my concern is that people are furiously cranking the engine without first taking care of the oil. The car engine will only work properly if one takes care of the oil. And until we take care of the oil, we cannot address successively the problems of the engine.

What is the oil? The oil is within the soul of man, which is our right relationship with God, our Creator. Jesus once said, “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?” (Matt. 16:23).

While some might suggest that my suggestion is untimely because it doesn’t address the immediate problems, it seems to me most timely to turn from our discontentment and turn to a book that can reveal how one first takes care of the soul. God’s word alone leads one into communion with the only true living God. And as you open God’s word, it will provide an abundant feast for hungry souls.

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