

Pastor's Corner

Blocking the Light

January 21, 2009

Dear Friend,

My neighbor asked me to trim her hedges. There are these bushes near their house that have been growing a lot, and so I cranked up that old hedge trimmer and started chopping away. It was lot of work, first because I have allergies to plants and these bushes just get me to coughing and sneezing, and second because they have grown up so high I had to use ladders to reach some of the high difficult spots. But after a few hours of work, I went into my neighbor's house for a drink, and the results were amazing. The house was brighter from the sunlight that now could get into the house, and the view, which had been blocked by the hedges, was now visible from the inside. Not only could I see outside better, but the sunlight could also come in more than it could before.



It made me think of our spiritual lives. For all of us there are little things that can grow up like that hedge. It might be bad stuff, or even good stuff. Like a friend I was talking with yesterday, in reply to my question, "How's your spiritual life?" he said, "I would like to read the Bible more, but when I get up I have to stoke the fire to heat up the house, then the kids wake up, then I get my wife's car ready for her, and then feed the boys, and I don't know where all the time goes!" None of these things are bad, but they are blocking my friend from received the light of God's blessing for him, and blocking him from seeing the view of Christ more clearly. Just like the hedge, little things can slowly become big enough to block the light from coming in and block our view from looking out.

What's blocking your view today? Have you had 30 minutes of uninterrupted quiet time with Jesus today? If not, it's time to make the changes in your calendar, in your schedule, to find time for Him. Readjust your alarm clock if necessary (yes, that's what I'm saying, set your alarm 30 minutes earlier if you have to!) so that you can start the day off right with God!

Consecrate yourself to God in the morning; make this your very first work. Let your prayer be, "Take me, O Lord, as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide with me, and let all my work be wrought in Thee." This is a daily matter. Each morning consecrate yourself to God for that day. Surrender all your plans to Him, to be carried out or given up as His providence shall indicate. Thus day by day you may be giving your life into the hands of God, and thus your life will be molded more and more after the life of Christ.

Steps to Christ, page 70.

When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us.

Desire of Ages, page 668.

When the mind dwells upon self, it is turned away from Christ, the source of strength and life. Hence it is Satan's constant effort to keep the attention diverted from the Saviour and thus prevent the union and communion of the soul with Christ. The pleasures of the world, life's cares and perplexities and sorrows, the faults of others, or your own faults and imperfections--to any or all of these he will seek to divert the mind. Do not be misled by his devices. *Steps to Christ, page 71.*

It will take work, and for some of us it will take a lot of work to readjust our time so that we can have the union and communion with Christ that we must have, but the results are eternal. Don't delay; start the process today!

We're praying for you!

Mark

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<http://www.sfcentral.org/>