

LIFENEWS

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LOOKING FOR LIFE IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES

After reading Pastor Jeremiah's newsletter thesis last week regarding reading the Old Testament as Christian Scripture, I was reminded of the other famous Jeremiah, the Old Testament prophet, and his inspired writing in Jeremiah 2:12-13:

"Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the Lord, for My people have committed two evils; they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water."

God states that His people—the nation of Israel—had turned their backs on Him, the true source of life and had dug for life and fulfillment in places that were broken and empty. Using imagery that the people of that day would understand, God compared their actions to abandoning a spring of fresh, clean, running water and choosing to draw from a broken cistern. The best and most refreshing water of those times came from natural springs. This water was clear, cool, dependable, and satisfying. By contrast, a cistern was a large dug-out pit used to gather rainwater. The cistern water was brackish, more saline than fresh, and the cistern itself often developed cracks where water would leak out, making them highly undependable. To abandon a dependable pure source of cool, fresh running water to draw from a broken, brackish cistern was crazy! Yet, that is what God's people were doing 2600 years ago and a rather accurate picture of what we see in the world today.

Jesus offers Himself as the true living water: ***"Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty***

again, the water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:14)

"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' Now this He said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive." (John 7:37-39)

The true living water of life only comes through Jesus. Yet people all around us are searching for life in all the wrong places; seeking fulfillment in self-realization, recognition, activities, lifestyles, other people, and whatever might temporarily satisfy their appetites. Even as Christians, we can find ourselves focusing on what we lack and turning to broken cisterns of this world rather than fixing our eyes on God and all that we have in Jesus.

Paul's letter to the Colossians is full of the great truth of who Jesus is and what we have in Him, but let me close with these verses from Colossians 3:1-4:

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."

Drink from the Word, not from the world!

Pastor Ron