MCC SYDNEY

Pastor Connect

13th October, 2009

Intent

So what do I intend to do today? Do I intend to get work done? Do I intend to do all my household cleaning? Do I intend to read my bible? Do I intend to be nice to people? Do I intend to be more Christlike in all I do? Or do I just intend to have no intent in anything I do today, to just coast along and see what happens?

Like it or not, these are some of the questions that we ask ourselves every single day. We may not realise we are asking them, but from the moment we get out of bed (or choose not to get out of bed!) we either decide to do things or just coast along and see what happens. The intent, or lack of intent, that is behind what we do is so important. Otherwise we can find life just passing us by.

Do you ever feel like life is passing you by and that you might be stuck in a rut where the same things happen over and over again, on a kind of repeating cycle? Do you ever ask yourself where the last years have gone? Do you ever wonder why you don't feel closer to friends, family, God or Jesus?

In our dreams things happen all the time like magic, but in reality things do not just happen. Ask any uni student or politician about how hard they hard to work to get a degree or to be elected to parliament for an example about how much work had to go into the task. And that work would be put in because it is being undertaken intentionally for a purpose. Of course it is not always possible to measure success as the world likes to see it. Sometimes no matter how hard we work we cannot seem to get ahead. The world throws up barriers and we fall and stop. But often we can learn new information and skills along the way that only God may know how they can be used in our future.

In life it is when we are intentional that we make things happen and the same thing is true in our spiritual lives. And unlike life, if we are intentional about our spiritual life then we can get ahead! We can become closer to God and Jesus. If we are intentional in our day to day lives about connecting with God then amazing things can happen. We can become more

aware of who we are, and who God is and we can become more aware of others and the call of Christ to be servants to one another. We can become stronger to deal with the ups and downs of life. And to follow on from the theme of the past couple of weeks, if we are intentional about all that we do, it will help to take our 'ordinary' lives in the realm of extraordinary.

Rev Gavin Ward