

ALPHA COUNSELING SERVICES

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Dear Friends,

The Apostle Paul says in Romans 14:23 "For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin." In this context he is encouraging us to not judge others for what they do or don't eat. It sounds awfully petty in the complexity of life but it is not! Why not? I think it is because small things are important and if we are lax in the little things then big things will be next.

In Charles Spurgeon's devotional book Morning and Evening for May 23rd. He writes: "Little thorns can cause much suffering....Little foxes spoil the vines. Little sins do much mischief to tender hearts....A little sin can make a Christian miserable....Some Christians seldom enjoy their Savior's presence.... Ask this Question: What has driven Christ from you? He hides His face behind a wall of your sins. That wall may be built from little pebbles as easily as from great stones. If you would have fellowship with Christ, then pay attention to "the little foxes..."

Much of my counsel with defeated discouraged Christians deals with piles and mounds of little problems that individually are not significant but together they are an obstacle we can't ignore.

From Oswald Chamber's devotion in My Utmost For His Highest also, on May 23rd He writes: "...do not worry about your life..." don't take the pressure of your provision upon yourself. It is not only wrong to worry, it is unbelief. Worrying means we do not believe that God can look after the practical details of our lives, and it is never anything but those details that worry us. Have you ever noticed what Jesus said would choke the Word He puts in us? Is it the Devil? No -it's--"the cares of this world" (Matthew 13:22). It is always our little worries. We say, "I will not trust

what I cannot see"--- and that is where unbelief begins."

I know people get tired of me repeating it but, ABIDING is the one and only way to walk in faith day after day. *John 15: 5...Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.* Now this does not mean we can do absolutely nothing! It's obvious that we get lots accomplished, but here we are talking about the things that last for eternity.

All our good works are, in God's opinion, as "filthy rags" or a 'polluted garment'(Isaiah 64:5) if Christ is not the very source of those good works. We were never designed to live life without God being the very center. Adam lost that life and Jesus won it back for us. Now it is up to us to live and walk in that life – Christ's Life. (2 Corinthians 5:16)

So let's go back to little things. As summer takes hold and school is out; or maybe as we become retired; then often we let important 'little things' drop off. I remember, as a parent, wishing school would begin so our routine would be established again. Often we get lax in our devotions and prayer in the summer. It may seem little but it's not! I was pleased when our men's Bible study group voted to not stop meeting this summer.

God Bless your summer days!
Richard of Alpha

*I pledge allegiance to the Bible,
God's Holy Word,
I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a
light unto my path
and will hide its words in my heart that I
might not sin against God.*

Happy Fourth