

Homily for 9/13/20

In the Letter to the Romans today we hear Paul proclaim that, "...whether we live or die, we are the Lord's."

We have been given free will. And in our freedom, we choose what or who is the guiding star in our sky. We choose what motivates us and to what we are responsible. In a word, we choose what our master is, we choose who we serve. As Christians, "...whether we live or die, we are the Lord's."

I put it this way: Jesus is God. And that means I am not, and no one else is.

Now by saying that, I do not mean I don't GET to be God and no one else GETS to be God. That is obvious. And there are enough scripture passages and personal stories of each of us that attests to that. Of course I should not try to act like I am the master of all I survey and everyone I meet. Of course other people should not be emphasizing that they are someone to be reckoned with. That no one GETS to be God goes without saying.

For me, the emphasis is that because Jesus is God, I don't NEED to be God; and no one else NEEDS to be God. At least I need to remind myself of that as I work with others. When I do, I can live in the Freedom of Christ's love.

I don't NEED to be God - I know I want to help others; but I can't do everything. Often I cannot do a lot. If I cannot fix someone, I need to remember that I am but a servant. Christ alone is the divine physician. Christ alone is savior and forgiver. I can spend myself for others resting in the heart of Him who spent His life for all of us – He who still gives and refreshes and makes all things new. I don't NEED to be God.

No one else NEEDS to be God – My desire to help someone can easily get changed into a desire to get their approval. I can't satisfy everyone. And there are some people who will never give me their approval. And besides, it is unfair for me to burden anyone with the responsibility of always approving of me.

Jesus is God. His is the approval I need and I desire. Jesus is God. And that means I am not, and no one else is. When I remember that He is the one I serve, that I belong to Christ – then I can live and die for Him.

Now it DOES come around full circle. For to Live and die for Christ is to obey Him. And His commands include living and dying for others, for He has called me to serve.

He has called all of us to serve. But He has first called us to Him; to know Him and be with Him. In Christ, we can let Him work through us. We can live for the Lord, and die for the Lord. He is the Lord of the Living and the Dead. He died and rose that we might be with Him in Eternity.

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