

Reflection Wednesday Week 23 – 2022

St Paul reminds us that the most important time is the present. God only lives in the present and we need to be focused to hear what God has to say to us, be it words of wisdom, of challenge, insight, mercy or compassion. It is the God who is present who opens us to beauty, both internal and external, to experiences of wonder and awe, moments of grace as well as sorrow and joy.

Richard Rohr writes, *“Western people are goal-oriented... we can’t imagine doing anything that won’t get us something. Sometimes, however, once we take away the busyness, we discover God has been there the entire time. God is maintaining us in existence with every breath we take. As we take another it means that God is choosing us now and now and now.”* This is the kind of presence that Paul experienced and wanted for us.

Henri Nouwen writes: *The real enemies of our life are the “oughts” and the “ifs.” They pull us backward into the unalterable past and forward into the unpredictable future. But real life takes place in the here and the now. God is a God of the present. God is always in the moment, be that moment hard or easy, joyful or painful. When Jesus spoke about God, he always spoke about God as being where and when you are. “When you see me, you see God. When you hear me, you hear God.” God is not someone who was or will be, but the One who is, and who is for me in the present moment. That’s why Jesus came to wipe away the burden of the past and the worries of the future. He wants us to discover God right where we are, here and now!!*

At our weekly Bible study, the leader asked an elderly gentleman, Walter, to open the meeting with prayer. Walter did so in a soft voice. Another man, straining to hear, shouted, “I can’t hear you!” Walter replied, “I wasn’t talking to you.” —