

Thoughts from Richard

March 2015

Last week at world superbikes was a great time of divine appointments for Geoff and me, thanks for your prayers. This was my 17th year and Geoff's 25th, and it seems that each year we are more blessed than the year before. It is a privilege to spend time with men and women who are honest and open about their life stories, and feel free to share them with us.

A few days ago I was involved with the 'rescue' of a young man whose car had 'broken down' near a busy intersection. He'd made his way to work but asked if we could get the car before it was towed away by the authorities. We drove to his work and picked up the keys, found the car and discovered that it had just run out of fuel. The young man, and any of us who have done the same thing, just wasn't paying attention to the gauges.

It got me thinking about people who have no regard for their spiritual wellbeing, or who think their 'fuel for spiritual life' comes from some source outside of God. What if our very lives were dependent on whether our car had fuel? What if we died the moment our cars ran out of fuel? How diligent would we be then about knowing what the gauge said! We'd check the fuel gauge all the time to see if it was operating properly, we'd carry spare fuel in case we ran low - we'd constantly be checking on our kids who had cars to ensure they did the same. In short, we'd be paranoid about it - and rightly so - the consequences of 'not paying attention' could not be higher.

What would we think of someone who didn't even look at the gauge, because they didn't want to think about the consequences? Here's the truth, if we don't look at the fuel gauge, we will still run out of fuel. How often do we stick our head in the sand and hope the truth will go away??

Yet that is sometimes what we are like with our spiritual lives, the only eternal life we have. We are often blasé, flippant, and dismissive about our spiritual lives, and the eternal lives of those around us.

In Proverbs 1/32 God says:

...the complacency of fools will destroy them; (Ps 53/1 the fool says in his heart, "there is no God") but whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm.

Let's keep a diligent eye on our spiritual wellbeing!

2 Cor 13/5 says:

Examine yourselves (check your spiritual fuel gauge) to see whether you are in the faith (really trust in God and obey him); test yourselves. (make sure that your gauge is right, look in the tank) Do you not realise that Christ Jesus is in you - unless, of course, you fail the test?

Jesus said:

If you abide in my word, then you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. Jn 8/32

So our petrol is the Word of God, ie. the bible and Jesus. Live in them and we'll never run out of fuel, and never die.

I know that thinking about these truths has helped me, I hope that these few thoughts have been helpful to you too.

Your servant in Him

Richard