

Religion That God Accepts



Day 100/101

Through the Psalms
By Derek Prince

> The LORD watches over the alien
> and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
> but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.
> (Psalm 146:9)

The psalmist sets side-by-side two aspects of God's character that balance one another: on the one hand, His care for the stranger, the fatherless and the widow; and on the other hand, the severity of His dealings with the wicked. As Christians, we are not normally required to be instruments of God's judgment on the wicked, but we are required to express His compassion toward the needy – particularly the widow and the orphan.

We are prone to talk about religion in general terms, without realizing that the Bible offers us a very specific definition of what God accepts as genuine religion. Often God's use of the term is quite different from ours. Much that we regard as religious God does not accept as such.

God's definition is found in James 1:27: "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." There are two parts to this definition: on the positive side, practical care for widows and orphans; on the negative side, keeping ourselves from the world's pollutions. It is characteristic of "religious" people – as we think of them – that they are very strong in their stand against "worldliness," but that they often do little or nothing to help widows and orphans.

In today's world one thing is sure: if we are truly concerned to care for widows and orphans, there is no lack of opportunity. In country after country, their needs cry out to us. If we fail to respond, it is through lack of will, not opportunity.

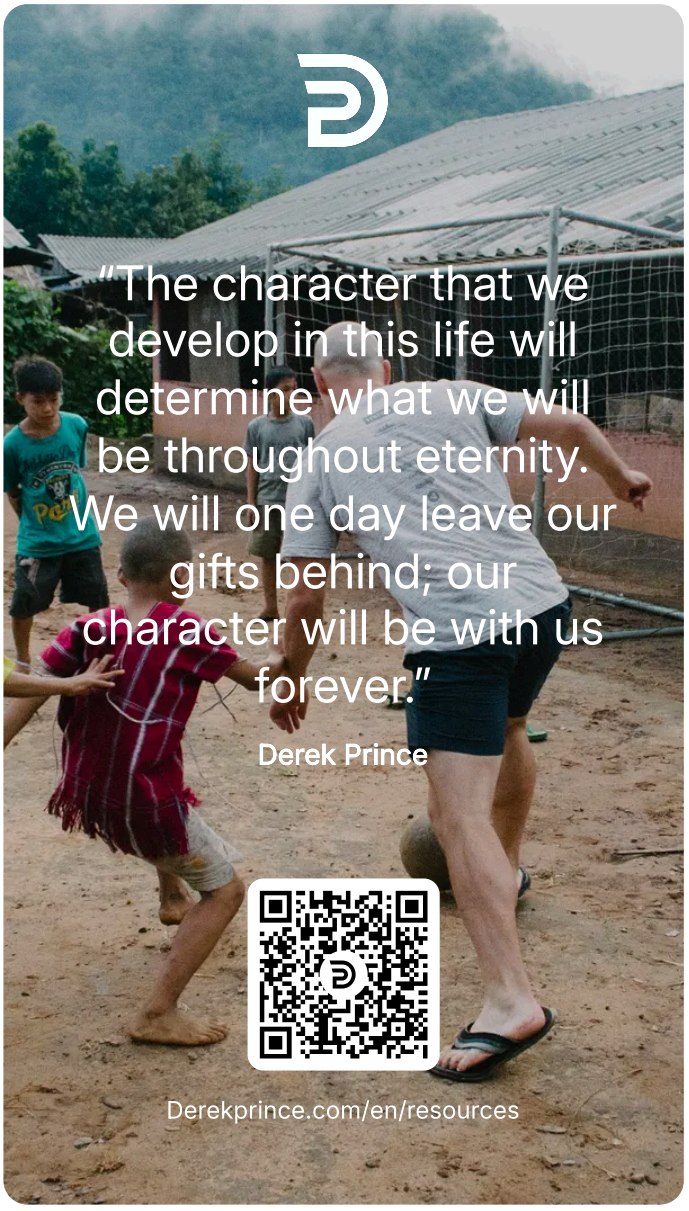
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Devotional ★

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