



WOW: Word Of the Week

Accustomed

September 4, 2024

What are you accustomed to? What is your normal? What are the routines of your life? What do you do consistently, habitually, without thinking, naturally?

Bible trivia, a lesson to be learned. Jesus' family had the custom of going annually to Jerusalem (Lk. 2:42). Jesus' custom was the Mount of Olives, a place of prayer (Lk. 22:39). Paul's custom was to go to the synagogue (Acts 17:2). Some had the custom of absenting themselves from Christian assemblies (Heb. 10:25).

What do people say about me, about you? This is what they always do, "as is their custom...." You can depend on this: they always _____. Fill in the blank.

My friend Steven Goad recently wrote until the title, "Holy Routine." I share a few of his thoughts as I again share my heart with you. Our weekly WOW.

What is typical for you? Are you tired and bored of doing the same things over and over? Steven asked a question, "Do your repetitive activities annoy you or comfort you?"

He continues, "There is something serene, if not tranquil, about having a routine. Often others depend upon our continuing patterns of activity. Why does the notion of novelty seem to trump the habitual activities of life?" Could our lives be blessed because we become accustomed, can function on "automatic," with rote routines and tedious tasks?

I do many of the same things, day after day, week after week. I am committed to certain activities. I have my routines. They are habit. I am happily accustomed to rhythms—of prayer, Scripture, writing, WOW. Worship, assembly. Household tasks. Goad makes clear why life rhythms matter, "Routines are blessings rather than curses. They keep us grounded by allowing us to realize **we will not be engaged in useless activities.**" We will not waste our lives. I will spend my life doing what matters, advancing kingdom things, encouraging everyone I can to be a kingdom person.

Why are we so enamored by novelty, doing something new, something different? Why are bucket lists so popular? Why are we so easily distracted? As one preacher observed, "jumping on our horse and riding off in ten different directions." Why cannot we determine God's purpose for our lives and focus our attention there? Why are routines so rare? Why is "accustomed" often seen as abhorrent?

Back to our beginning. What are you accustomed to? What is your normal? What are the routines of your life? What do you do consistently, habitually, without thinking, naturally? Plus, one more question. Do the answers you give reflect Paul's singularity of purpose: "this one thing I do."

Accustomed. This is where I am going. This is what my life is about. May others see that we are accustomed to advancing kingdom matters, God's eternal purpose!