

**ATTITUDE**

For the past, few weeks this column has explored different aspects of life and doctrine under the title of PSA which stands for Positive Spiritual Attitude. I have tried to show that even though we live in a world of problems, hate, apathy, and sin it is still possible to view life as an optimist. A Positive Spiritual Attitude, based on God's Word, can give answers to the trials and misfortunes of life as well as teach us what Jesus meant when He said that, "I came that they might have life and might have it abundantly." (Jn. 10:10).

To be positive is sometimes against our human nature. When a black spot appears on a sheet of white paper, we readily see it, and ignore the white space. Even though over ninety-nine percent of the surface area of the paper is white, all we notice is the black spot. This is how we sometimes view other people. A person may have a tremendous amount of good in them but it is their faults and shortcomings that we focus in on. Being positive means to look for the good in all things. Dental check-ups, for example, may be painful and sometimes expensive but we will be better off going. The positive outweighs the negative. Being positive says the glass is half-full not, half-empty.

Another trait, which is sometimes against our human nature is that of being spiritual. Because we are physical beings, living in a physical world, to look at things from a spiritual viewpoint may be very difficult. We want to measure things by adding up physical accomplishments. Success is attained by the use of and collection of physical things we deem of great value. So, say the materialists. But being spiritual is greater than having a wealth of material possessions. A spiritual person understands the greater value is not in cars, homes, money, or property, but in love, mercy, joy, and gentleness. A good name is worth much more than a good house. The apostle Paul made a comparison of the things which are physical (can be seen) and the things which are not physical (cannot be seen) in 2Corinthians 4:18, "while we look not at the things which are seen but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal." Being spiritual means putting things in the proper perspective; the things of God first, the things of the world (physical things) second.

Lastly, but very important is the matter of attitude. Both qualities of being positive and being spiritual will boil themselves down to attitudes. It is increasingly important that we shape our attitude in the same way we shape our conscience. We look at the Bible and see what it says for our lives; we then decide to do the things contained therein and shape our conscience accordingly. Attitude needs to be defined and refined in the same way. Jesus' attitude was not one of complaining, bitterness or hatred. Jesus has drawn thousands to Himself because His attitude reflects the kind of attitude we would like to have in our life.

Positive Spiritual Attitude can make the difference in how we treat our brothers and sisters in Christ. PSA can make a big difference in how we treat our neighbors, friends, and strangers in our community. And PSA can make the difference in our attitude about ourselves. Cultivate your PSA today!