

SCCC – LOOKING FOR JOY AND PEACE

S - Scriptures

“Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.” Acts 14: 17

C – Consideration

This statement made by Paul in Lystra, was a brief explanation of God’s goodness through creation and providence. The context of these words happened after a cripple was miraculously healed, as he listened to the preaching of the gospel by the apostle. Witnessing the miracle, the citizens of the town worshiped Paul and Barnabas, called them gods. Immediately, the apostles corrected their action, “Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you.” Then, they explained the reason they were in their city “We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them.”

Commitment

The hearts of the people were filled with joy because of the crops, the landscape, and the food they ate. It is the type of joy that was in my heart before I became a believer. I didn’t concern myself with my spiritual condition. I didn’t even want to talk or to know about it. But, the same God who blessed a spiritually blinded rebel with the goodness of his creation also had sent someone to give me a Bible. I read in the Scriptures that ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ The beauty of nature and the flavor of the food provided with moments of pleasure. Then, I started to drink alcohol to extend the lack of joy that food and drink couldn’t offer me. Finally, I heard the “good news” that brought me, the true joy and peace to fill my soul: “Jesus Christ died for my sins and rose from the dead to justify me.” Eventually, He became my Lord and Savior. From that day on, I understood the writings of Peter, the apostle; “Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”

C – Call

My Heavenly Father, You are a gracious, compassionate God, and long-suffering towards us. You give us seasons, rain, food, the beauty of nature, and yet we are rebellious and ungrateful to You. We deserve hell, but because of Your love, You sent Jesus to save my soul. My God, as Paul and Barnabas were sent to Lystra, and pastor Abimael to my city in Brazil, to tell them and me about Jesus, send workers to the world to let everyone know the good news about Jesus. Lord, like the prophet Isaiah, I also pray “here I am. You can send me too! In Jesus’s name, I pray. Amen.

