

Limitations

By Steve Hare

“When He assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters would not transgress his command.” Proverbs 8:26

“He...has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings.” Acts 17:26

We understand from this scripture that despite its incalculable power, the Lord has set a specific limit on the ocean “so that the waters would not transgress His command”. Yet, He placed such limitation on disobedience or rebellion. Now isn't it interesting that we are created the highest of all the created order, and yet *we* transgress His commands?

He has given us the gift of a free will so that we do not worship, honor, or serve out of compulsion or coercion, but of our own will from a heart of gratitude for all He has done and for all the goodness we have come to know and recognize in Him.

We set limitations for our children because we love them, and we know that without any restraints they would be ruined for life. And not always only for the sake of caution, but do we not also correct them at times to see how well they will respond to our authority? Can we expect any less from our heavenly Father? Sometimes, I think the Lord introduces limitations, not because we would necessarily go astray, but simply to see if we will submit to *His plan* for our life – no matter what.

“Delight yourself in the Lord, trust also in Him and He will give you the desires of your heart.” Psalm 37:4

What of the seemingly pointless time we spend to no apparent benefit?

About eight months ago, within the space of a week we found that two of our three vehicles had blown head-gaskets and not being able to afford the repairs, we had to get rid of them. Since that time, we've been limited to one vehicle to shuttle both of our kids between work and college back and forth across town. Consequently, the majority of my “spare time” outside of work is spent on the road. My wife of twenty-two years has night blindness, so she is unable to do any of the driving after dark. Now, I'm very glad to help out my wife and our kids while they are trying to save for vehicles and while my daughter is paying her way through art college; but I've often wondered why the Lord has allowed these things to take place when I think that my time would be better spent writing or practicing my guitar or basically *anything* but driving!

We are all called to a place of humility before Him, and once we have come to recognize His place in our lives, we must submit to His authority and the limitations that He has placed in our lives according to His wisdom and power. There are times when we have to

determine who we really serve in this life, God or ourselves. Do I *really* believe that He causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose? Do I really believe that He orders all my steps and will fulfill all His purpose and will complete the work that He started in me?

Even though you might recognize or *sense* some limitations in your life; whether in your occupation, ministry or finances, do you *really* believe that He will give you the desires of your heart? Do you find your delight in Him, and have you come to really trust Him? *No good thing* will He withhold from those who walk uprightly!

Be encouraged! Limitations that are set in place by God can also as easily be removed by Him when He knows you're ready...