A SOLITARY TREE

    When I look at the vastness of some of the forests, we are blessed to live near, I would be interested in knowing how many trees were in just one of those gigantic groves of trees.  Consider that the forest is made up of thousands or more of single trees.  Each of those trees is solitary, meaning it is an individual.  It is different from all the rest.  Much of the area around the Biltmore Estate was barren at one time.  They said Mr. Biltmore stood on top of a hill where there was one single pine tree and determined to develop that land into a productive area.  Trees were planted to preserve erosion build the soil.  Other trees were planted to replace timber that was cut to help build his estate.

    You and I are just solitary individuals.  I am one person in this world of people yet I am unique in that there is no one exactly like me.  This is God’s plan.  His plan for us is different.  He has a work for me individually.  Sometimes his work may be within a work.  A friend of mine was a minister with a particular ministerial organization.  Yet God used him in a slightly different way than the others in the same organization.  As Christians we are all part of God’s redeemed but there are different denominations and within the denominations there are different associations, within the associations there are different churches and even to the Christian.  Yes we are different and we have different roles.

     Well, we may be solitary but we still need each other.  Even trees need other trees.  Trees need pollination.  People need people.  We need people to talk to and interact with.  Trees need other trees to produce more fruit.  Other people help us be more fruitful for the Lord by encouraging us to be faithful.  Christ would send them out two by two.  Paul had Silas or Barnabas; Peter had John; Timothy had Paul; and Mark had Barnabas.  We need someone in the ministry to lean on.  We are unique individuals who need other unique individuals.

     You can look at tree covered mountains and try to pick a single tree from a great distance and it is almost impossible.  But if an individual tree is dead it becomes much easier to distinguish.  I pray that though we are unique we are not such a stand out that we become prideful and conceited.  Pride and conceit can kill us spiritually.  We do not want to be the dead tree in the midst of the living forest.  Lord, make this tree (me) alive and thriving.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram