



July 23, 2008

Thought For the Day

***A fool finds pleasure in evil conduct,  
but a man of understanding delights in wisdom.***

Proverbs 10:23

I was “channel surfing” through the television channels late the other evening. Since there was absolutely nothing worthwhile on (in my opinion), I stopped for few minutes to watch two people playing poker. (Isn’t it sad when that is the most interesting thing on television! It’s probably even sadder that I stopped to watch it, but that’s another story!) The two men playing were friends, and as they played they were talking to one another. As they talked, for some reason they decided refresh their memories about each other’s educational background. One had a master’s degree in mathematics and a second master’s degree in computer science with a concentration in the design of artificial intelligence. He also had a doctor’s degree in computer science. Both of his degrees were from UCLA. The second man had a doctor’s degree in mathematics from MIT and a lawyer’s degree from Harvard. And here they were playing poker for a living! What a waste, in my opinion. Here were two gifted men who were capable of doing so much for the benefit of others, spending their time seeking only to get rich so they could live for themselves.

In his parable of the talents, Jesus commended the servants who used their talents to make a profit for their master and he condemned the servant who buried his talents in order to preserve, as he thought, his well being with his master. This last servant didn’t realize that his master would rather that he had lost it all while seeking to work for the benefit of his master than to risk nothing while seeking to preserve himself.

What do you think? Is mis-using a talent or gift that God gives you for selfish ends the same as burying your talent? It may seem wise to us, but the above verse cautions us about that type of thinking.

Be willing to risk all for Jesus Christ. God has given you talents and skills, use them to advance God’s kingdom. By doing so, God will look at and say “Well done.”

*You have given me the skills of my life. I will seek to use them for you. Help me, I pray.*