

YOU ARE NOTHING!!!

-Jim Hyest-

Sorry if I offended you, but I was just stating a fact. But do not be offended because I also am nothing. You are nothing; I am nothing...because...God is everything. I adopted this idea from an expression used by the famous Italian maestro Arturo Toscanini (1867 – 1957). At the peak of his career he was world renowned and, if not the best conductor of his day, very certainly among the very greatest of his day and all time. As I remember the story he was scheduled to be the guest conductor for a Beethoven performance in Milan. He arrived in the city the day before the scheduled performance and immediately went to the symphony hall for a practice session. All the orchestra members awaited with eager expectation for Toscanini's arrival as they considered it a high honor to be led by the famous conductor. To them it was to be a memorable experience; on that would be worthy of telling their grandchildren one day. The great maestro silently and soberly mounted the podium and looked at the orchestra members for a few moments. Then he spoke simply and tersely, "You are nothing...I am nothing...Beethoven is everything!" His meaning was that without the composer, the creator of the music, the orchestra would have nothing to play and he, the maestro, would have nothing to conduct. Therefore, they should not think too highly of themselves. Hence, for us, you are nothing; I am nothing; **GOD IS EVERYTHING!!** Without our Creator, the composer of life, we would have no life. If we by some means would have life without God, we would, then, have no purpose. If we tried to make up our own purpose, we would have only a short life of make-believe and no destiny. Without God all would be folly or, as the Preacher said, vanity. Everything would be fantasy, there would be no standard for right and wrong, the weak would be at the mercy of the strong, the strong would live continuously in fear of overthrow, and life for most would be miserable with the only escape oblivion. Hence, Paul exclaimed, "For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified (1Cor. 2:2)." Perhaps we should reflect upon this thought and ask, "Is God truly everything to me? Truly everything?"