

**"THE WORDS OF THE LORD ARE PURE WORDS, LIKE SILVER TRIED IN A FURNACE
OF EARTH, PURIFIED SEVEN TIMES.
YOU SHALL KEEP THEM, O LORD, YOU SHALL PRESERVE THEM FROM THIS
GENERATION FOREVER." (PSALM 12: 6 & 7)**

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THE WORD OF GOD!

Part Four

"To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." (Isaiah 8:20)

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

"For the commandment is a lamp, and the law a light;" (Proverbs 6:23a)

"These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so." (Acts 17:11) Emphasis Added

When our Father woke me up spiritually some 25 years ago, He gave me a supernatural "hunger for" and "love of" the Truth --- His word. He also gave me a burden for what we Christians call "the church". I did not ask for either of these gifts, nor did I expect them, however, that is what I was given, and I am thankful for these God given gifts. I believe that according to Father's word as recorded in Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Hebrews 8:8-12 a love for Truth, as expressed in His word, is given to all who are spiritually re-born; Other gifts and burdens are given according to the will of the Holy Spirit. Some are given a burden (gift) for children, others a burden for the elderly, still others for widows, orphans or the poor. I believe some of us are given a burden for a particular nation or race of people. The manifold mercy and love of God is expressed through these diverse gifts that we know as "burdens". As I have said, mine is for the preservation of Truth (His Word), and the church; these messages are the fruit of my burden, which I believe is the burden of our Father.

Whenever God's people drift away from His Word --- they drift away from the Truth. As they drift away from the Truth, they become a burden for God. Our Father's heart is burdened for us because we show so little love and affection for Him that we set His word aside in favor of something or someone else. This is a most blatant form of disrespect; that a mortal would turn his back on the One who created him, openly showing a total lack of respect and fear of Him --- mocking His word to His face. To those of us who are numbered among those who choose to show such disrespect, our God says:

"You have burdened Me with your sins, you have wearied Me with your iniquities." (Isaiah 43:24)

"What right have you to declare My statutes, or take My covenant in

**your mouth, seeing you hate instruction and cast My words behind you?”
(Psalm 50:16&17)**

**“He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which
you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.” (John 14:24)**

**“He who says, “I know Him”, and does not keep His commandments, is a liar,
and the truth is not in him.” (1 John 2:4)**

For one to believe that God is not serious about His word; and that because of His love for us, He will overlook or excuse our selfish disobedience, apart from true repentance and a turning back to His word ---- This one marks himself as a fool!

“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes,” (Proverbs 12:15a)

**“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”
(Proverbs 14:12)**

One of man’s greatest problems is that he has a propensity to believe that he or she is right--- regardless of what God’s word says. I am convinced that this tendency toward belief in “self” is found to some degree, in each of us. One reason that those of us who call ourselves Christians are separated into our own separate church or denomination, each believing that they are right, is because of our trust in “self”; we trust our own heart. Our heart and our affections are in unity; and when we gather in a pew with others who sing off the same song sheet, and with whom we are socially comfortable, we are quite content and confident that God is well pleased with us. How could it possibly be otherwise? Surely, we would never hear our God say:

**“I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works,
the last are more than the first. Nevertheless I have a few things against you, _____
_____.” (Revelation 2:19&20) Emphasis Added**

Of course we would never hear our Lord speak to us as He did to the “believers” in Thyatira ___ or Ephesus ___ or Pergamos ___ or Sardis ___ or Laodicea. No, never! We are all now found in the spiritual church of the “faithful” ___ the church of Philadelphia (Rev. 3:7). “We are absolutely certain of our good standing before God and we refuse to listen to any voice that would suggest otherwise. We count our critics as judgmental, unloving and divisive.” While these words are rarely spoken audibly, they are manifested daily for all the world to see; and make no mistake about it, God sees ___ and says:

“He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, ___.” (Proverbs 28:26a)

**“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;”
(Proverbs 3:5)**

**“You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your own affections.”
(2 Corinthians 6:12)**

“Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.” (Matthew 7:21)

“For “many” are called, but “few” are chosen.” (Matthew 22:14)

“___ therefore, work out your own salvation with “fear” and “trembling;” (Philippians 2:12b)

“___ On this one I will look; on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.” (Isaiah 66:2b)

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:3)

Dear reader, do you trust in your own heart? Do you believe that everyone who professes belief in Jesus and calls Him Lord is saved and on their way to heaven? Do you believe that only a “few” are chosen out of the many who are called? Do you tremble at the word of God? Do you believe that those who are not poor in spirit and who do not fear God will inherit a place in the kingdom of God? Do you believe that if you have no heart’s desire to pursue holiness that you will ever see the Lord? Finally, do you believe that God’s word is Truth from Genesis through Revelation, and that obedience to His word is better than sacrifice? Dear reader, your answer to these questions will determine your final destination.

When our Lord entered into the human race and walked among us, He declared that: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). In those days, His own people (as a whole) did not believe Him. Today is no different. His followers are numbered in the millions in North America alone. We have built tens of thousands of churches, some small and some large. We have created a 60 billion dollar a year industry (in the U.S. alone) around this Man, named of God --- Jesus! We stamp His name on everything from tee shirts and wrist bracelets to coffee mugs, bumper stickers and condos by the sea. He has become our own franchise, our ticket to fame and fortune! ----Our ticket to health, wealth and happiness!

If the early apostles, including Paul, Luke, John, Peter and James, along with representatives of the church of our forefathers from the first few hundred years of our history (following our Lord’s return to heaven) ---if they were to visit the modern day church, I am absolutely convinced that they would separate themselves from us and refuse to fellowship with us on the basis that we were in open rebellion against the authority of Jesus Christ and the Word of God. “On what basis, (you might ask), would they break fellowship with us?” ---- On the authority of the Living Word of Almighty God! Listen -----

“But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.” (2 Thessalonians 3:6)

“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so

now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, **let him be accursed.**” (Paul – Galatians 1:8&9) Emphasis Added

“If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.”
(John – 2 John 10&11)

“Now I urge you brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.” (Paul – Romans 16:17&18) Emphasis Added

“Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.”
(Paul – Ephesians 5:11)

Today, for the most part, we --- the people of God, who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ --- are repeating history. As it was in the days of Jeremiah, Hosea, Isaiah, Amos, Malachi and so many others ---- so it is today. To confirm the truth of what I am saying, all you need to do is go to Father’s word and review the past history of God’s people. You will find a clear pattern, covering thousands of years, where we drew closer to God through obedience to His word; then we became confident of our own good standing with Him, as His very own people; we then began to compromise His word and turn to the dictates of our own heart, drifting further and further into outright rebellion. All the while, God sent His prophetic voice to warn His people that if they did not repent and turn back to Him through obedience to His word that judgment would fall on them through the sword, pestilence and famine. Invariably, His people rejected the warnings in favor of what pleased their flesh, and suffered greatly for having done so.

Over and over and over again the pattern has been the same. Our brother, the Apostle Paul, clearly warned us that the pattern of which I speak would follow right up until the return of Jesus Christ. Please listen ----

“Let no one deceive you by any means; for that day (His return) will not come unless the falling away comes first, ___.” (2 Thessalonians 2:3)

“Know this, that in the last days “perilous” times will come: Men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. From such people turn away.” (2 Timothy 3:1-5)

Then Peter issued the following warning to those who do not take God’s word seriously:

**“The time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?”
(1 Peter 4:17)**

The word of God was a stumbling block for Adam and Eve, as well as for generation after generation of God’s people, right up to this very hour. As one brother said to me recently, “For the most part, God’s people do not believe the Word of God”! That brother spoke the truth. We tend to believe and act on the part of God’s word that appeals to us, while we ignore or reject that part that we find to harsh or unfair. We tend to be most sympathetic to our own personal interests and beliefs, regardless of what God has said to us through His written word. We then expect God to confirm our rebellious behavior by giving us the desires of our heart. We expect Him to bless us, and cannot understand when He seems to turn a deaf ear to our prayers. In fact, most Christians that I know, and most messages that I hear preached or read, blame Satan for our troubles. We dare not blame God for our broken homes, financial problems, sickness and disease, division of the church and lack of love for each other ---- No! never; and we certainly are not going to blame ourselves because that would mean that we (self) have been wrong; our natural instincts are to just blame Satan and imitate the behavior of our original parents (Adam and Eve). They had no problem blaming Satan for their behavior (see Genesis 3:8-13), but they could not fool God --- it did not work for them ---- and it is not working for us! Man cannot ---- He cannot ---- deny God’s word and expect to be blessed for having done so. Adam and Eve learned this lesson the hard way, and we are no different. To think otherwise, is to mock God to His face and call Him a liar. I trust, dear reader, that that is not your heart’s desire.

“In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality”. (Peter – Acts 10:34)

“For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe.” (Deuteronomy 10:17)

“There is no partiality with God.” (Romans 2:11)

“God shows personal favoritism to no man ----.” (Galatians 2:6)

It has always been a dangerous thing for man to deny God’s word. Our God will not allow us to continue our current practice of denying His word, without suffering the consequences (see Galatians 6:7&8). Every time we “deny” His word in thought, word or deed, we --- “declare as untrue”, and “reject as false”, His word (see Webster’s definition of “deny”). Whenever man chooses to turn away from God’s word in favor of his own beliefs, or those of his or her own church or denomination, or those beliefs of another person ---- regardless of how well intentioned or sincere they may be ---- that person opens himself up to deception, darkness, destruction, corruption and eventually death. Examine God’s written record and you will find my statement to be true.

“For My people are foolish, they have not known Me. They are silly children, and they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge.” (Jeremiah 4:22)

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; (Read Revelation 1:4-6) Because you have forgotten the law of your God (read Matthew 7:21-23), I also will forget your children.” (Hosea 4:6)

Our only hope to live life as our Father desires us to live it, is through His word. Every other way is a dead end! When I continue, we will examine our current condition, in light of God’s word; and expose our wicked behavior, in hopes that we might turn back to the highway of holiness (Isaiah 35:8) and once again enjoy our Father’s favor. Until then, I leave you with this prayer:

“Teach us, O Lord, the way of Your statutes, and we shall keep them to the end. Give us understanding, and we shall keep Your law; indeed, we shall observe it with our whole heart. Make us walk in the path of Your commandments, for we delight in it.

Incline our hearts to Your testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn our eyes away from looking at worthless things, and revive us in Your way.

**Establish Your word to Your servants, who are devoted to fearing You.”
(Psalm 119:33-38)**

Amen and Amen!

Your brother,
Thomas

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