

"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)

JUNE 4, 2004

OAK HILL  
2115 GRAEFENBURG ROAD  
LAWRENCEBURG, KENTUCKY 40342

## "THE SIMPLICITY OF INTIMACY WITH JESUS CHRIST" (Part Two)

As we continue with the message that calls each of us to a place of intimacy with JESUS CHRIST, I feel it is important to make the following statement: The message you are reading is as much for me as for you. I am nothing more than your brother in CHRIST, and in no way do I consider myself more mature or more spiritual than any one of you. Our FATHER still has a work to do in me as the struggle between my spirit and my flesh continues.

I do admit I hate anything and everything that would attempt to separate the heart of man from total loyalty and intimacy with the King of all Kings and Lord of all Lords – JESUS CHRIST. I especially deplore any person or any thing that uses His name to promote a person, a work, or a system of religion that in the end robs our Lord of the one thing He desires above all other things – Loving Intimacy with His sons and daughters. Listen –

**"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, and with all you mind." (Matthew 22:37)**

**"He who loves father or mother more than ME is not worthy of ME. And he  
who loves son or daughter more than ME is not worthy of ME."  
(Matthew 10:37)**

If you or I have a greater love for any other human being than for JESUS, then He says we are not worthy of Him. We cannot use His name as a seal of approval for our Christian works, our religious activities, and our loyalty to an institution – we cannot! His words make it perfectly clear – He requires our total love, loyalty, and intimacy above all else in life, or we are not worthy of Him. What about you, dear reader? Are you worthy of Him? Are you?

One of the barriers that hinders our intimacy with JESUS CHRIST is the issue of our hearts' love for Him. If we fail to adhere to His first and greatest commandment, (Matthew 22:37) of having a heart that desires to love Him above all else, we will not enjoy true intimacy or oneness with Him. We cannot love Him with all of our heart

unless we get to know Him. We cannot get to know Him unless we feed upon His word. Living life on the earth as FATHER intends that we live it is impossible apart from His living word.

**"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the Mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4)**

The bottom line is simple. Total love for God and walking in a place of intimacy with Him is dependent upon our knowing Him. Our knowing Him is dependent upon our receiving and having a desire in our hearts to keep the full counsel of His word. Once we move from a position of *knowing about* Him to a position of *knowing* Him, then our hearts turn only to Him alone – for truly, only He is worthy of our love and affection.

I have maintained for years that most of us do not love our God with all of our hearts, souls, and minds. The very words of our mouths reveal the true state of our hearts. If only we could hear what we are saying. Here are samples of what I frequently hear coming from the mouths of Christians:

*I just love my pastor. I just love our Church. I just love our Bible teacher. I love my grandson so much. Don't you just love our choir? We love our house. We just love our new car. We love our new Priest. We love our Bible study. We love our school. We love our fellowship hall. Love – Love – Love!*

We talk a lot about love. I believe the word *love* is one of the most overused words by Christians today. We express our love for our family, our friends, our Church, and our religious leaders and do so profusely. But rarely do we express our love for JESUS CHRIST. After all, that is a *private* matter even among fellow believers. May God have mercy on us!

JESUS had something to say about those whose hearts were not in love with Him, but who at times expressed their love of Him, through their mouths. Listen –

**"These people draw near to ME with their mouth, and honor ME with their lips, but their heart is far from ME. And in vain they worship ME, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."  
(Matthew 15: 8 & 9)**

**"In vain they worship ME"**! Our Lord will not allow anyone to enjoy intimacy with Him whose heart is not set to love Him above all else. In Revelation, chapter two, verse four, JESUS warned the Church at Ephesus that He had something against them. Listen –

**"Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love."**

Our Lord goes on to warn the Church at Ephesus to repent – or else! (Verse 5) The record of our Lords attitude toward His followers in Ephesus was given to us as an example and

a warning. In the book of Jeremiah, chapter seventeen, verse five, our FATHER issued another sober warning for those whose hearts departed from Him in favor of man.

**"Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the Lord. "**

I am fully persuaded that the majority of Christians today think they love the Lord just because they believe in Him, and belong to an institutional Church. The fact that their love and passion are *firstly* for a person, place, or thing, causes them no worry at all. We consider ourselves to be OK in God's eyes, in spite of the fact that He is not our first love. Oh, how wicked is the human heart!

**"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? I the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings." (Jeremiah 17: 9 & 10)**

The fact that we do not yet love our Lord with all of our hearts should not discourage us, provided we have chosen to obey and love Him above all others. We should not be discouraged because aspiring to this high goal of love is a process only FATHER can complete. Once again, we find our confidence in this spiritual truth by receiving and believing His word. Listen –

**"being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of JESUS CHRIST;" (Philippians 1:6)**

Always remember FATHER loves honesty and He hates hypocrisy. The Biblical definition of *hypocrisy* simply means "a theatrical performance. Playacting, role playing, pretending or acting insincerely." (See Strongs #5272) Saying that you love the Lord with all of your heart, while at the same time, having first loyalty to your family, your job, your hobby, your Church, or your anything else, is to play the hypocrite, and incur the disfavor of God. If you acknowledge your shortcomings in this area and confess those shortcomings to your brothers and sisters, you will be endeared to our FATHER, and as we pray for one another, you can expect our FATHER to bring healing to you in this area. (See James 5:16) Simply put, do not play games with a holy GOD. Stop trying to find favor with GOD by being a good Church member. Determine, now, to fulfill HIS desire for you by loving HIM above all else. Separate your heart to HIM and do not just mouth the words. Take bold steps toward HIM and away from the bastions of organized religion who are denying you the opportunity to enjoy intimacy with HIM. You take the first step, and I promise you HE will meet you and set you free to walk with HIM. Praise His holy name!

A second stumbling block or barrier that many of us face is whom we will obey in our spiritual journey – GOD, or a man or system claiming to speak for God. Each of us must choose, as an act of our own free will, whom we will obey. The choice we make will determine whether or not we experience true intimacy with our Lord, JESUS CHRIST, or whether we become no more than human pawns of a religious system that

God will, in the end, totally destroy. In a worse case scenario, a person could end up in Hell, just because they elected to follow and obey a person or system, instead of God. Whom we choose to obey will determine the quality of our life here on earth and, ultimately, where we will spend eternity. FATHER'S word could not be more clear on this matter. Listen –

**"We ought to obey God, rather than men." (Acts 5:29)**

Dear saints, let me ask you a question. Why would any true *born again* believer who was familiar with Acts 5:29 and who believed God's word to be true (Psalm 12: 6 & 7), elect to obey a man or system, rather than God? Why? I would suggest there are at least three possible reasons. First, the person does not really believe God's word to be infallible, and therefore, to them, one interpretation is about as good as another. Secondly, the person who chooses to obey a man or system, rather than God, simply loves that man or system more than God. Finally, the person who chooses to obey man and man's system, rather than obeying God may never have actually been spiritually reborn. They might have an intellectual understanding of our Lord. They may have joined a Church and been baptized. They may hold a high office of their Church. They may be faithful to their organization and may even be considered a "pillar" in their Church. They may be all of these things, and in the end, find themselves in Hell forever and ever and ever.

**"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one  
is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God."**

**"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit,  
he cannot enter the Kingdom of God." (Jesus speaking in John 3: 3 & 5)**

JESUS clearly stated that the spiritually unborn would not see nor would they enter the Kingdom of God! I would suggest each of us should listen to JESUS rather than the lying voice of a man who is not God. We should never forget Romans 3:4, listen –

**"Indeed, Let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: That  
You may be justified in Your words, and may overcome when You are judged."**

We should never forget that when a person preaches, teaches, or expresses an opinion contrary to God's word, that person has become a liar. That goes for me, for you, and every other human on this earth. I believe that it is high time the true sons and daughters of God rise up and confront the voices who oppose our Lord's word for what they are – liars! It makes no difference who you are – pastor, Priest, Pope, Sunday school teacher, elder, or deacon – if you disagree with the words of the Lord our God, then I boldly declare to you – you are before God, a liar. Repent now and turn from your wickedness, or suffer the wrath of a holy God!

In John 14:6, JESUS declared that He was the "Truth". He further stated that His word was His Father's word (see John 14:24), and that we could not live life as He

intended for us to live it except by His word. (See Matthew 4:4) God's word is not open to debate, and He will never alter it – period!

**"My covenant I will not break, nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips."  
(Psalm 89:34)**

Dear saints, please hear me now. JESUS CHRIST is the Truth. You can trust His word, regardless of what anyone tells you, to the contrary. Today, the Christian camp is well populated with liars. Liars will attempt to control, manipulate, and dominate you. You may think my words too harsh or judgmental, but I assure you if God's words be true, (and they are) then my charge, if anything, is understated. These are truly the latter days when the "lie" comes into full bloom and deception sweeps through our ranks, infecting even those who may have been counted among the elect. Our Lord warned us of these days in Matthew, the 24<sup>th</sup> Chapter, when He said;

**"Take heed that no one deceives you."**

Liars – those who ignore, add to, take away from, and oppose our Lord's word cannot enjoy intimacy with Him, who is The Word. (See John 1: 1-4 & 14) They cannot! Those who follow and serve the liar or the lie cannot enjoy intimacy with JESUS CHRIST. Only those who love the Truth and hate the lie can enjoy oneness or intimacy with JESUS CHRIST.

**"If anyone does not love the Lord JESUS CHRIST, let him be accursed."  
(1st Corinthians 16:22)**

When we continue, we will examine our hearts to see if we qualify to be counted among those who truly love our only hope – JESUS CHRIST. Until then, remember, FATHER longs for an intimate relationship with you!

Your Brother,

  
Tom