

"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 Three -

"They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." (Jesus prays – John 17:16&17) (emphasis added)

"How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. (Psalm 119:9) (emphasis added)

"Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish." (Ephesians 5:25b-27) (emphasis added)

"You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you." (John 15:3) (emphasis added)

True salvation is salvation that results in life after death spent in heaven with God and His sons and daughters. True salvation is the fruit of "sanctification." Sanctification is nothing more than "being made holy." Some say, perhaps the majority of those who profess Christ as their Savior, that simply believing in Jesus makes them holy or sanctified. That may be a popular belief within the modern-day church, but it is no where to be found in the Word of God. The Apostle James when confronted with this issue ridiculed those who claimed such belief. He said: **"Even the demons believe (in Christ) – and tremble!" (James 2:19b)** If a demon believes in the one true God and is destined for hell, and a man believes in the one true God and is destined for heaven, what determines the difference in where each one ends up eternally? Think about it!

Father's word clearly tells us that demons, as well as Satan, are nothing more than "fallen angels;" angels who rebelled against the authority of God. They chose not to believe God, but rather to follow the father of lies. (John 8:44) It is one thing to believe "in" Jesus Christ, and another altogether to "believe" Jesus Christ. Angels, who believed in God, found out that their rebellion against God's word brings with it a horrific penalty.

"And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day." (Jude 6)

Clearly, just believing in Jesus does not give one a free pass to neglect or disobey God's word. We must not forget Peter's warning to us on this matter (1 Peter 2:7&8), as well as the writer of Hebrews

warning (Hebrews 2:2&3). Having a heart to obey God above all other matters of life, brings blessing from God; not having such a heart brings loss of blessing and eventually a curse from God. We may not like it – we may think God to be unfair – but that is the way it was yesterday – it is the way today – and it will be the way of God in the future! God’s word, down to the last jot and tittle (Matthew 5:18), is Truth, Life and Light; while man’s word is a lie.

“In deed, 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.” (Romans 3:4) (emphasis added)

Every believer in Jesus Christ who is born again by Biblical definition (John 3:3-8) should have a love in their heart for the word of God. They should have a desire in their heart to obey God. As they grow in their love for God, His word becomes their actual bread of life (Matthew 4:4). As they feed on their Father’s word, they are transformed in their mind (Romans 12:2); and they are found pursuing holiness. They actually take on the image of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29). If these characteristics are not found in a professing Christian, there is every reason to believe that they are not soundly converted.

Billy Graham is quoted as having said that he would not be surprised to find that 90% or more of those in the church, professing Christ, were never truly Born Again. My own personal experience would agree with brother Graham’s statement. While no man but God Himself, knows for certain who is Born Again and on their way to eternity with Him, there are clear marks on the ones who are “called of God” (Matthew 20:16).

Sadly, I find that man has over time created a “form” of Christianity that is centered on church membership, financial giving (tithing) and good works. While it is clear from Father’s word, that one who is Born Again will fellowship with other believers, they will be charitable, and they will be involved in good works according to the will of God; it is also clear that these characteristics are not the “foundational” marks of one who is Born Again. It is quite possible for a man to join a church, attend regularly, serve as a deacon, pastor, youth leader, etc., be a faithful tither, and be involved in all sorts of good works – it is possible that one might do all these things and have their name engraved on a stained glass window and go straight to hell.

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

“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. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name? And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!” (Matthew 7:21-23)

I fear that we have heard these words of our Lord so much that over-familiarity has bred contempt (a lack of respect) for God’s word, resulting in the loss of all fear of God, and a horrendous loss of souls.

Concerning those who are truly Born Again, it is written:

“This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. None of them shall teach his

neighbor, and none his brother, saying know the Lord, for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” (Hebrews 8:10-12) (emphasis added)

“Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.” (Hebrews 12:14) (emphasis added)

Salvation is a God thing; it is not a man thing. No man or woman – no, not one – will come to Jesus Christ except Father first draw them:

“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.” (John 6:44)

Please notice that the love of God’s word in the heart of the Born Again believer (Hebrews 8:10) was put there by God – not by man. Also note in John Chapter 17 when our Lord prayed for His disciples, He also prayed for those who would believe in Him through their word (vs. 20); that is us, dear reader, if in fact we are Born Again. In our Lord’s prayer He prayed thus:

“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.” (vs. 17) (emphasis added)

If any man be saved, it is only because of what God has done – what God has said – and – how man responds to same. There is no salvation apart from God and His word; and it is high time that we warn the people who’s hope rests in man’s institutions, man’s theology and man’s doctrine. Hell will be well populated with souls that refused to accept and follow God’s living word, and instead chose the “broad way” (Matthew 7:13&14) to destruction. Man cannot save himself, nor can he save anyone else; regardless of how sincere – regardless of how many tears are shed – regardless of what any man, be he the Pope, a Bishop, a priest, a pastor, preacher, teacher, prophet or layman – no man can save himself, much less any one else! The Word of God, alone, is able to save our souls! It is written:

“Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” (James 1:21&22) (emphasis added)

“Having been Born Again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.” (1 Peter 1:23) (emphasis added)

“Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death.” (John 8:51) (emphasis added)

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.” (John 5:24) (emphasis added)

Not only is the Word critical for the salvation of souls, but it is also essential to the process of sanctification. If we are not pursuing holiness, we will not see the Lord! (Hebrews 12:14). Peter declares the following in 1 Peter 1:15-17:

“As He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, Be holy, for I am holy. And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;”

Holiness! Not the “having attained” holiness, but the “pursuit of holiness” is the critical issue for all those who desire to be with the Lord for all of eternity. Every believer should take comfort in this truth. “Desire of heart” will either endear one to the Father, or cause that one to be rejected. The word of God clearly declares that those who are Born Again are a new creation, (2 Corinthians 5:17). God has supernaturally, by His Spirit, placed a “desire” for His word in the heart and mind, so that His “offspring” (Acts 17:28) are attracted to His word – the Bread of Life – and, as they feed on His word, desiring that it take root in the fertile soil of their heart and reproduce after its own kind – they slowly, but surely, are made holy. Their confidence is wholly centered on God, through His word, and on no other person or institution. They become Head worshippers, not body worshippers. They have no confidence in their flesh and rest their hope on only what Father has declared. Because their heart hungers for Truth and they desire to be holy, they find great joy and peace in Father’s word:

“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) (emphasis added)

With God’s word being true, and such a vast number of professing believers in Christ, why is there so little evidence of true holiness within our ranks? Why is there so little hunger for Truth, the whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth? Please allow me to share Andrew Murray’s (May 9, 1828 – January 18, 1917) thoughts on this matter, taken from “Daily Experience with God” (Chapter 29), Whitaker House, publisher.

“The great objective of God’s Word is to make us holy. The reason there is often so much Bible reading with so little real result in a Christ like character is that ‘salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth’ (2 Thessalonians 2:13) is not truly desired.

Christ gave us God’s word to make us holy. When we make this our definite aim in all Bible study, ‘the truth,’ not the doctrinal truth, but its Divine quickening power, can impart the very life of God to us.

The Word, separate from God and His direct operation, cannot accomplish anything in us! The Word is an instrument: God, Himself must use it. God is the only Holy One. He alone can make holy. The unspeakable value of God’s Word is that it is God’s means of holiness.

God makes us holy through His Word bringing Christ and the Holy Spirit into us.”

“Pursue . . . holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.” (Hebrews 12:14)

In light of God’s word, each of us must ask ourselves the following question: Are we pursuing holiness? Are we? If not, we have no hope of seeing the Lord. Whatever the full meaning of Hebrews 12:14, I can assure all who read these words that it is not good news for those who fail to pursue holiness through God’s word.

“Receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.” These words which our Lord spoke through the Apostle James are clear and easily understood. Father has offered us His word and given us “the right to become children of God” (see, John 1:12). “To become” clearly indicates a future event. Salvation, deliverance, sanctification, holiness – all of these promises and much more are found in God’s word, and no where else. They are not automatically given to man apart from man’s choosing to receive the Word as a little child receives his father’s word (Matthew 18:3). We must turn a deaf ear to the words of men, and turn a hearing ear to our Father’s word. As we choose God’s word and submit to the tutorship of the Holy Spirit (John 16:13-15 and Matthew 23:8-10) our Father implants the word in us, and we begin to think, speak and act like our God, and the word is fulfilled as written:

“Therefore, be imitators of God as dear children.” (Ephesians 5:1)

“For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 2:16)

“No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.” (John 15:15)

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (Romans 12:2)

Dear reader, are you proving the perfect will of God as you live your life? If not, why not? It really is as simple as a matter of choice. Jesus Christ desires an intimate “One on one” relationship with each of us (John 14:20, 21&23). That relationship can only be found in His word. Our Lord will lead you and guide you into all truth (John 16:13). I plead with you, if you are one who is “called” of God (Romans 8:28 and 2 Timothy 1:9) do not stake eternity on church doctrine, church tradition, any man’s word – regardless of his position in the church; that includes my word. Trust God alone! If you are His, He will not fail you – He will not! Trust your Father – literally eat (devour) His word – submit to the tutorship of the Holy Spirit – do not be swayed by the commentaries of any man, regardless of their credentials. Let your Father do in you what He has promised to do. It really is as simple as a little child responding to their Father’s call:

“Speak Lord, for Your servant hears.” (1 Samuel 3:9)

We will continue as our Lord leads. In the meantime, rest in Father’s word; the fire storm of the Holiness of God will soon make landfall; and only those hidden in His word will remain untouched.

Your brother, Thomas

"EVERY WORD OF GOD IS PURE; HE IS A SHIELD TO THOSE WHO PUT THEIR TRUST IN HIM. DO NOT ADD TO HIS WORDS, LEST HE REBUKE YOU, AND YOU BE FOUND A LIAR." (PROVERBS 30:5 & 6)