

## Lesson # 8 - The Priorities Regarding the "Inner Man".

### Introduction

- A. In this lesson we need to begin with the truths regarding creation.
  - 1. God created us as persons.
  - 2. We were created as spiritual persons.
  - 3. God has made provision whereby we may be fulfilled as persons - spiritual persons.
  - 4. God addresses us as persons and holds us responsible as persons.
- B. These principles of our creation and redemption are often overlooked in our daily life.
  - 1. We tend to regard ourselves as less than a person.
  - 2. We pattern our daily lives as though changing our circumstances would result in personal happiness.
- C. Failure to understand the Biblical priorities regarding the "inner man" has led to disappointment and confusion in the lives of many\*
  - 1. Solomon, with all his wealth and wisdom, spoke in Ecclesiastes of the "vanity" (emptiness) of life. His conclusion (12:13) related to fearing God and living in obedience.
  - 2. It is not unusual for a person to work for many years to achieve what he believed would bring happiness - only to succeed in his goal and to be unfulfilled.
- D. The text: Matthew 23:25,26

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

### I. Orientation: The Biblical Emphasis On The "Inner Man".

- A. The key to spirituality and success in life is found in the choice of the heart.

For Ezra had prepared his heart to Seek the. law of the Lord and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments. Ezra 7:10

Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life.  
Proverbs 4:23

But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat . . . Daniel 1:8

B. The real character of a person is known through his heart.

O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.  
Matthew 12:34,35

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.  
Psalm 19:14

But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly, and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit and not in the letter, whose praise is not of men, but of God. Romans 2:29

C. Our relationship with God is primarily a matter of the heart.

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. Proverbs 3:5

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. Matt. 22:37

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Romans 10:9,10

II. Exposition: The Biblical Desire for the "Inner Man".

A. Delight and the "inner man".

For I delight in the law of God after the inward man. Romans 7:22

1. Observation: The word "delight" is rightly related to the "inner man" in the plan and purpose of God. It is God's will for the Christian to find his relationship with God one of delight. The many references to the joy of the Lord underlines this principle. (John 15:11; 16:24; 17:13; Romans 14:17; 15:13; Gal. 5:22; I John 1:4)

2. Illustration:

Let Thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live, for Thy law is my delight. Psalm 119:77

How sweet are Thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouths Psalm 119:103

Thy words were found and I did eat them and Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart, for I am called by Thy name, O Lord God of Hosts. Jeremiah 15:16

B. Renewal and the "Inner Man".

For which cause we faint not, but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. II Cor. 4:16

1. Observation: The Apostle Paul lived in the midst of physical danger as well as with bodily exhaustion. Here he reminds us of the way God renewed him in the "inner man". This does not mean that the Christian's body is to be neglected nor that God discounts the physical. The emphasis here is on the priority and the importance of the person. It is God's will that we experience a constant upholding and renewal as we walk with God.

2. Illustration:

Create in me a clean heart, O God and renew a right spirit within me. Psalm 51:10

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength . . . . Isaiah 40:31

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. Romans 12:1,2

And be renewed in the spirit of your mind. . . . Eph. 4:23

C. Strength and the "Inner Man".

That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man. Ephesians 3:16

1. Observations The term "strengthened" in this passage goes beyond the "renewal" of II Cor. 4:16. Here it is a divine enablement for growth and service. All Christians are deeply conscious of the need for such strength.

## 2. Illustration:

The eyes of your understanding (heart) being enlightened, that ye may know what is the hope of His calling and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places. Ephesians 1:18-20

That I may know Him and the power of His Resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death. Philippians 3:20

That ye might walk (live) worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God, strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with Joyfulness. Colossians 1:10,11

According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue. II Peter 1:3

## III. Explanation: The Biblical Warnings Regarding the "Inner Man".

- A. The affirmation of the heart is the expression of faith or unbelief.

If thou shalt say in thine heart. These nations are more than I, how can I dispossess them? Deuteronomy 7:17

- B. The heart is where we backslide first.

The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways . . . . Proverbs 14:14

- C. The sinful potentiality of the heart is beyond our understanding.

The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, who can know it? Jeremiah 17:9

- D. The heart is known to God and this determines reward and judgment.

I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. Jeremiah 17:10

- E. The heart may be the seat of idolatry.

Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face, should I be enquired of at all by them? Ezekiel 14:3

F. The heart is where sin is first committed.

But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. Matthew 5:28

G. The heart is the source of all true worship.

This people draweth nigh unto Me with their mouth and honoureth Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. Matthew 15:8

H. The heart is vulnerable to Satanic influence.

But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the price of the land? Acts 5:3

I. The heart must be protected from rejecting the truth.

Wherefore, as the Holy Spirit saith, To day if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness. Hebrews 3:7,8

Observation: These many verses point out a great lesson - we may not allow ourselves to be passive or neutral in the pursuit and practice of the truth. We must recognize that the standard for faith and practice is found in the Word of God - not in ourselves. The secret here is to choose to believe and obey God's Word.

#### IV. Applications The Biblical Exhortations Regarding the Heart.

A. We are to keep our hearts with all diligence, Proverbs 4:23.

Keep thy heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life.

B. We are to do the will of God from the heart, Ephesians 6:6.

Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers, but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

C. We are to love God with all our heart, Matthew 22:37.

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

D. We are to utilize the provisions of divine grace for the care of our heart, Philippians 4:6,7.

Be careful for nothing, but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.