

For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

Romans 8:6

Christ Changes Us

Johnny Ramsey

Store In My Heart

Joel 2:12-13

"Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

The prophecy of Joel, like most others, was a call for Israel to return to God. Joel speaks of the 'day of the Lord' as a time of judgement upon the nation. His warning was to urge them to repent for that day was coming. Destruction awaited any who would not return to God. Peter quoted from Joel in Acts 2, telling those Jews that the 'day of the Lord' was happening to them. We should heed this warning also as our 'day of the Lord' will certainly come.

I once read a fascinating story of a tramp who bought a beautiful vase for eleven cents at an auction. This was every penny he had. In his messy shanty across the tracks, the new possession looked terribly out of place. The man was wise enough to keep the vase and lose his old lifestyle. The precious possession demanded that the vagabond ways of the past be scrapped. So he cleaned up the place. Jesus can do the same for us, if we are discerningly perceptive. We should heed the admonition, "*Reckon ye also yourselves to be dead unto sin, but alive unto God in Christ Jesus*" (**Romans 6:11**). The letter to the Galatians closes by challenging us to be a new creation as we put to death the old carnal man of sin and shallow endeavor (**Galatians 5:17-18; 6:14-15**). Sadly, some bring all their old baggage with them. To pursue godliness while clinging to the world will always result in misery (**James 3:9-10**).

We must allow Christ to change our attitude, actions and affections, if heaven would be our destination. We should leave far behind us rebellion, sensuality and laziness -- once we enter the kingdom of God. Not enough teaching is done concerning responsibility and spiritual growth and fruit-bearing in the lives of Christians. Many babes in Christ are non-conversant on loyalty, fidelity and commitment. We work diligently to convert, but are not as incessant on stressing those matters that pertain to spiritual maturity. When we work on our attitude, we begin to realize that we were saved to serve and not be carried around on ivory beds of ease. We should take up our cross daily and follow the Lord Who sacrificially gave up the glory of heaven to save us (**Luke 9:23; Hebrews 2:9**).

Our attitude will develop us into soul-winners for Jesus rather than demanding that we be pampered by others. We will be so busy in helping others that we have no time to feel sorry for ourselves. Complaining will be crucified as we rejoice in the redemption of folk



we personally taught and brought to the Savior. We will be those who take the good news to the lost and ring the message out over land and sea that many can be free! Our affections will be upon things above and not on emphasizing the mundane matters of carnality (**Romans 8:6**). Those shallow joys of the past will be left far behind us as we now have a different and better perspective on the use of time, talent and money. Christianity definitely rearranges our priorities.

Because we follow Jesus, we no longer view others as those who can help us gain status, but we deeply yearn to help save their souls. The fleeting wealth of earthly honor fades and the glory of God pervades our thinking. The lust of worldly lore passes from our minds as we now, in Christ, have an insatiable appetite for spiritual progress in the direction of heaven.

*There is a habitation Built by the living God,
For all of every nation Who seek that grand abode.
O Zion, lovely Zion, when shall I dwell in thee?*

Yea, our loving Redeemer can change our attitudes, affections and actions to make this life and the world to become a much brighter arrangement. May we allow the beauty of Jesus to be seen in us!

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(Whenever I hear the words of the song quoted above, I think of what the Hebrew writer said of Abraham and the other Old Testament men and women of faith:

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city. **Hebrews 11:13-16**

The change wrought within our hearts and minds by submission to Jesus should lift our focus to eternity. Yes, it will change our actions and attitudes as we walk among men, but it must also build a deep desire within us to reach for Heaven and our home with God. We cannot find our home here. Keep marching toward Heaven. Study well, work diligently, pray fervently to go toward home. DLH)

(This new format should allow the same content, but make electronic versions of our bulletin more readable. You knew the bulletin can be found on our website, right? Tell your friends, neighbors and family. Email a copy to someone who could benefit from the teaching. DLH)

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

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For Our Information

Jimmy Gray has knee surgery Monday morning.
Betty Ragsdale has heart surgery Tuesday morning.
Jon Ross Simpson has tests at Children's Wednesday.
The Simpson Family is in Star City this weekend.
Ruben & Brenda Keisler leave on vacation Monday.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

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