

What does the Lord require? –Pt2 a right heart before Him

In our previous study we looked at three things that the Lord requires – (1) do justly, (2) love mercy and (3) walk humbly before Him. In this teaching we will extend that list of what God requires – (1) Fear Him, (2) love Him, (3) serve Him and (4) walk before Him in truth with a perfect heart.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded

1. In singleness of heart, fear God.

“Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God” (Col 3:22). See – Ps.86: 11.

2. Serve the Lord with all thy heart.

“And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God...to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul” (Deut.10: 12).

3. Love the Lord with all thine heart.

“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might” (Deut.6: 5). See also Mk 12:33, Deut.30: 6.

4. Walk before the the Lord in truth with a perfect heart.

“And said, Remember now, O Lord, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart...” (Is.38: 3).

Illustration to help apply our teaching to our life

A man that attends the Potter’s house church spoke with a preacher on Queen St some years back and told of a friend who walked with the Lord, loved the Lord but now walks in the ways of the world. And from this experience he interprets scripture to mean that a man can lose his salvation when he sins. Hence Christians must live sinless lives or be in the body of Christ when they sin not, and out when they sin.

Question to think about.

Last week we established that God requires obedience to His instruction, but we all fall short of being obedient, how do any of us then fulfil what God requires?

Our answer from the scriptures.

With a right heart before Him!

Salvation occurs when the heathen receive and believe the gospel of Christ–Crucified in their heart (Rom.10: 9 & 10).

Our journey from the moment of our salvation until we go home to be with God is about our heart, not about us obeying every commandment (although we seek to obey Him) – because the law shows that none can keep it, hence those that preach sinlessness for salvation deceive themselves and the truth is not in them (1 Jn.1: 8). God requires our heart to be right before Him as shown when we, in singleness of heart fear Him, love Him, serve Him, and walk before Him in truth with our heart. It was no different for Israel – who with their lips drew near to God but had removed their heart from Him (Is.29: 15), and David was disobedient and chastised by His Father (Ps.118: 18, Heb.12: 10), yet had a perfect heart before the Lord (1 Kg.11: 4). Be encouraged to come to the scriptures with a right heart, not through the lens of your experience, but with a perfect heart that fears God, seeks to serve and love Him, and walk with Him in truth with all your heart! Amen, amen and amen!