

15 March 2015

Let us purpose not to defile our God (Purposed Pt 2)

Introduction.

This is our second study of the word “purposed” in the Holy Scriptures.

Previous points covered.

1. What the Lord purposes to do, he will do it.
2. The Lord has purposed evil against our enemies
3. The Lord has purposed to bring down all the honourable of the earth.

Two points are established from the Scriptures for this study.

1. Let us purpose that our mouth would **not** transgress the Lord.
2. Purpose in your heart **not** to defile yourself in the sight of God.

Our two points in more detail.

1. Purpose that your mouth would not transgress the Lord.

Supporting Verse.

Ps.17:3 “Thou hast proved mine heart; thou hast visited [me] in the night; thou hast tried me, [and] shalt find nothing; I am purposed [that] my mouth shall not transgress.”

Context and meaning of our verse.

* This is a prayer of David, where he is asking the Lord to hear his prayer that goes “not out of feigned lips” (feigned is deceitful, false and subtle). Verse 2 David is asking that his words come forth from the Lord, then in verse 3 David admits to the Lord that He has proved his heart, tried him and found nothing. And in the same breath, David acknowledges that he has “purposed that my mouth shall not transgress.” So when we consider the meaning of purpose, we establish that David devised, he imagined, he plotted that his mouth would **not** transgress the Lord.

Other scriptural support.

Ps.39: 1, Ecc.5: 6

Scriptural examples.

Job in chapter 31 verse 30, and the Lord Jesus clearly purposed that his mouth would not transgress as “neither was guile found in his mouth” (1Pet.2: 22).

Application of our verse today.

* This verse could apply to any age, and today we see Paul references the tongue and lips where the unsaved use them for deceit (Rom.3: 13). And for a believer today to purpose, to devise, or plot a plan that would see him **not** use his lips, his tongue or his mouth to transgress the Lord, that would clearly need the Holy Spirit of God to enable the man to fulfil what he has purposed. In doing so the man recognised that his tongue is full of deceit, is an instrument of fire (Jam.2:), hence in seeking to not transgress the Lord each day by his mouth the man would obey other teachings to the church today: (a) “edify one another” (1Thes.5: 11), (b) “speak the truth in Christ, and lie not” (1Tim.2: 7), and (c) speaking the truth in love” (Eph.4: 15).

Illustration.

* There were two preachers on the street that when we consider their individual actions provide us with a comparison which highlights the outcome of planning not to transgress the Lord with our mouth.

* Preacher A was preaching the gospel and a young man stood in front of his face (within 100 mm) and at the top of his voice told the preacher that “Christians like you raped and pillaged my country.” The preacher stopped preaching and asked the man to come to one side and discuss with him, rather than making a spectacle (and by this time there were some in the audience who were looking forward to the upcoming battle, obviously expecting the preacher to retaliate), the young man continued to yell and shout at the preacher, but the preacher eventually asked him

which country he was from, and was it Roman Catholics or Protestants that pillaged his country? The man replied, "it was Protestants". The Preacher quietly indicated that the actions appeared to be those of RCs, and then went on to preach the gospel to the man, who when he got to proclaiming hell-fire the man left.

* Preacher B was preaching at the top of his voice (and good on him for doing so), when after he had finished a second young man (who had witnessed preacher A) asked preacher B why he was yelling when the other preacher quietly encouraged the other young man to come to one side and answer his questions? The preacher continued to speak loudly, asking the young man why he did not want to listen to the word of God being preached? The young man got frustrated with preacher B and asked his question again, to which preacher B repeated his question, and the man walked off muttering something under his breath.

* Let us remember that both were focused on preaching the gospel, but when we take into account verses like 1Cor.13: 1 ("Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become [as] sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal."), then one used his mouth to ask questions and showed charity to his audience whilst preaching the gospel, whereas the other was keen to make his point.

Learning from our Illustration.

* It is easy to transgress the Lord with our mouth, to lift up ourselves more than those we speak to, especially when they are lost, and we know the truth, and they need to hear the truth. It is natural for us to want to talk, and expect others to listen. But if we persist in this approach and forget that God gave us two ears and one mouth then are we ploughing the field so that when we sow the seeds they fall on fertile ground? And in our zeal to preach are our words (to the hearer) like "sounding brass"? How do we purpose to **not** transgress the Lord with our mouth?

* The natural man, when they speak "speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh" (2Pet.2: 18), and "the flesh profiteth nothing" (Jn.6: 63). The verse in John continues, and provides help with our question (how do we purpose not to transgress the Lord with our mouth?), "the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit". How does a man sin not when he opens his mouth?

a) by planning to **not** transgress the Lord when he opens his mouth, &

b) by seeking God's help to **not** transgress the Lord when he opens his mouth, and

c) by dying daily to his wicked tongue.

* Hence, he changes his mind-set to one of accepting his tongue, whether it be critical of others, or lifting himself up and so speaking vain words, to desiring to change, praying for change, and planning to change, and this can only be done when a man is walking "in the Spirit" (Gal.5: 25). But to do nothing about his tongue is not learning from David, where he purposed his mouth to **not** transgress the Lord.

Challenge & or encouragement.

* Let each one of us never forget that just because we know the truth, we need God's help to use our tongue without deceit, to use our lips and not lift ourselves up, and so **not** transgress the Lord. If your tongue is even one tenth inclined as mine is to lift up myself, or criticise, then try (a) praying to God and purpose that you transgress **not** the Lord, (b) say something complementary about a brother (that is valid), (c) do not criticise your brother, (d) "esteem other better than" yourself, and (e) speak lowly about yourselves.

2. Purpose not to defile yourself in the sight of God.

Supporting Verse.

Dan.1: 8 "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself."

Context and meaning of our verse.

* Daniel has found himself in a land where the king worships a false god (verse 1). The king recognises that the children of Israel are special, and so he asks for children in whom is no blemish, well favoured, and skilful in wisdom, and these are chosen to teach in the king's palace (verse 4). The king apportions the men (of whom Daniel is one) some of the king's meat and wine that he drinks (verse 5). Our verse begins with "But", in other words, that is what was required,

however, Daniel would not follow the people of the land, he purposed, he planned, he plotted to not defile himself by eating the king's meat or his wine.

* The remainder of the chapter identifies how Daniel convinced the head eunuch to allow him to not eat or drink the king's portion without the king blaming him (the head eunuch), he suggested the king's servants prove that what the king was feeding them and what Daniel suggested (i.e pulse and water to drink – verse 12), would have no difference on the countenance of Daniel and that is what happened.

Other scriptural support.

Acts 20:3 "And [there] abode three months. And when the Jews laid wait for him, as he was about to sail into Syria, he purposed to return through Macedonia."

Application of our verse today.

* Paul would have purposed in his heart not to transgress the Lord, and he encouraged the believers to depart from evil and to flee fornication, which takes purpose and planning to achieve a good outcome. Hence, this instruction is as much for the Jew in Daniel's day as it is applicable to the Christian today. Providing of course the Christian today has a copy of God's word, and hence knows what defiles himself in the sight of His God, and what does not.

Illustration.

* A person can purpose in their heart to defile themselves in the sight of God or not defile themselves. Non believers can simply say no to God's Son. A Christian minister could plan to not defile themselves before the Lord, but then change the word of God, so God's words are no longer clear and pure, or they could altar their meaning so that the meaning within the context is changed by the minister, so the words mean what **they** want them to, like the example of the lesbian minister who established the legitimacy for a female laying with another female and it **not** defiling God, by re-defining the word "abomination" in Lev.18: 22.

Learning from our Illustration.

* Before you can purpose to do something, or not do another you must first understand what it is that you have purposed to do. In Daniel's example he knew that it was against the law to eat the food that had been prepared for idols, so he prepared his heart to not eat or drink the king's portion. Yet in the example of the minister of God who changes the word of God, and the meanings of the words that are left, does she purpose to defile herself in the sight of God?

* The moment she changed God's word, and the meaning of the words to be different to the meaning established from the context, she defiled herself in the sight of God, whether she accepts or believes that to be true is irrelevant. Before you purpose, before you plot to not defile yourself before God, let us know that the measuring stick for defilement is what God has given us and **not** our own.

Challenge & or encouragement.

Find the words of God, study them, then purpose, plan, and pray to God to **not** defile yourself in His eyes according to **His** words, within the meaning established from the context. Let us pray for those who struggle to acknowledge God's words, and ask Him for help for those that have them, that we would purpose in our hearts **not** to defile ourselves before God by disobeying **His** words.

Summary of our two points.

1. Let us purpose that our mouth would **not** transgress the Lord.
2. Purpose in your heart **not** to defile yourself in the sight of God.