

Monday, 4 February 2019 Hebrews 6:1-6

Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits. For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.

This is a problematic passage, especially for those of us who worry about our day to day witness. I think the best advice I've ever gotten on this issue was, "If you're worried, you're ok., if you're not, you should be." Better advice might be that if I'm striving to take the Word of God into my heart and obey Him, I'm on the right road, The King's Highway. And that's all I need to concern myself about.

Tuesday, 5 February 2019 Hebrews 9:8-14

By this the Holy Spirit indicates that the way into the holy places is not yet opened as long as the first section is still standing (which is symbolic for the present age). According to this arrangement, gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper, but deal only with food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until the time of reformation. But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

These two statements have to be looked at in unison to gain a full understanding that the Holy Spirit's role is to lead me as I follow Christ Jesus into the Holiest of Holy. It is through the Lord's work and the Spirit's gentle leading that I can be released from my dead works to become an Ambassador of Reconciliation.

Wednesday, 6 February 2019 Hebrews 10:15-18

And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds," then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

The Holy Spirit testifies that the LORD, God, the Almighty has indeed promised that His Word will be put into my heart and inscribed on my mind. He, the Spirit, adds that all evidence of my evil nature will be erased from the mind of the LORD; I am redeemed in His sight.

It is essential for me to recognize that the Word is put in my heart, thus giving me the compulsion and desire to obey the Word of the LORD, and written into my mind, thus giving me the ability and will to be obedient.

Thursday, 7 February 2019 Hebrews 10:28-31

Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

"Outraged" in the ESV has the sense, in the Greek, of being insulted. That is to me, is a far stronger sense of reaction of the Holy Spirit to deliberate sin by those who claim to be Christians. If I am cherry-picking my way through the Scriptures, treating the Word of God as a buffet table, a little of this but skip that approach to the grace of the LORD, God, the Almighty, I am calling the Godhead to be composed of liars. Outraged—certainly! Insulted--absolutely! Grieved—without a doubt! I have desecrated the gift of grace.

Friday, 8 February 2019 1 Peter 1:1-2

This letter is from Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ. I am writing to God's chosen people who are living as foreigners in the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and His Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed Him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. May God give you more and more grace and peace. (NLT)

This is a passage that nails the relationship between the

trinitarian Godhead and the people of God. We are chosen by God, the Father, cleansed by the sacrifice of God, the Son, and transformed by the work of the God, the Spirit. It is a complete work, perfect in all aspects, a structure that glorifies the LORD, God, the Almighty.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



February 4-10, 2019

Saturday, 9 February 2019 1 Peter 1:10-12

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

The prophets knew of the coming sacrifice of Christ, revealed to them by the Spirit, but that it would be for us, a later people. The angels know, but it is a relationship of which they can only look at but not participate in. It is the Good News of the mercy of the LORD, God; the Almighty bestowed through grace upon those whom He has chosen.

Lord's Day, 10 February 2019 Psalm 119:62

At midnight I rise to praise you, because of your righteous rules.

Help me, Lord, to use these periods of wakefulness during the night as a call to worship and praise You; as a time to meditate on Your Word and Your Law, seeking understanding for my life.

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe. 1 For you, brothers, became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own countrymen the same things those churches suffered from the Jews, who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out. They displease God and are hostile to all men in their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. The wrath of God has come upon them at last.

We thank You, LORD, for the strength and boldness to speak into the culture in which each of us lives and works. Speaking the message of redemption, of restoration and reconciliation, speaking the offer of righteousness, peace and joy of life in the Kingdom of Heaven. Speaking of Your love, grace and mercy that is offered freely to all mankind.

Let us not be swayed by the wrath and hostility of those who adamantly worship other gods and who are determined to leave no effort untried to prohibit the proclamation of the Gospel. Amen

To fear or not to fear, that is the question.

The fear of the Lord, an expression that occurs many times in Scripture, 142 in the ESV in various forms, is not well understood in the Church today. For many, the phrase represents a weak and flabby description of an overly saccharine spiritual being of some sort. It certainly does not include the concept of the LORD, God the Almighty who spoke all things into being and who controls all things.

Join with me in examining the fear of the LORD and seeking an understanding of life in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now as guided by that fear.

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