

## Daily Devotional Readings

Monday, May 31

### Real Religion is Inward

Dr. Byron L. Osborne

"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." Romans 14:17.

In the field of religion the great battle through the ages has been between an inward religion of reality and an outward religion or formality.

The drift has always been toward the outward and formal. The work of the great reformers like Jeremiah, John the Baptist, Martin Luther, George Fox and John Wesley has been to call the people away from the outward forms to the spirit and reality of Christianity.

The Kingdom of God, i. e., essential Christianity, does not consist in "meat or drink," or anything outward. It does consist in "righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

Righteousness comes by faith and is a condition of the heart. Peace is a state of mind resulting from perfect trust. Joy is the blessed by-product of fellowship with those we love.

And all this is made real by the blessed Holy Spirit who has united Himself with us in His sanctifying and keeping grace. All praise to Him!

Tuesday, June 1

### The Spirit vs. The Flesh

Rev. Paul L. Kindschi

"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." Galatians 5:16.

John Wesley, in his "Explanatory Notes on the New Testament," says, "Walk by the Spirit, and fulfill not the desires of the flesh." His is a negative view for he states that walking by the leading of the Holy Spirit requires that one must not succumb to the weaknesses and desires of the body. Whereas, the King James Version makes it appear that walking in the Spirit prevents one from yielding to fleshly lusts. Emphasis on both of these views is needed, the "thou shalt" and "thou shalt not."

Occasionally one needs to willfully and purposely avoid fleshly enjoyment in order to come into communion with the Holy Spirit, there is a lack of appeal to the flesh and a natural Spirit-inspired avoidance and repugnance of fleshly things. Then there is not so great a requirement of a person's will in living the Divinely-guided life.

Avoiding and fleeing from the passion of the world leads the believer eventually to a passion after God.

Wednesday, June 2

### The Temple of the Spirit

Dr. C. P. Haggard

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"

"If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." I Corinthians 3:16-17.

It is Paul, the mighty apostle, who speaks but not now as world-missionary, international

The King's Highway

evangelist. Instead he speaks as the organizer and administrator; Director of the church on a hundred fronts. Out of his vast wealth of experience and insight, he is to give instruction and insight for the government of the church and the advancement of the cause of God.

Starting from the Corinthians' partisan preferences for leaders (1:10-17), he abases all philosophy beneath the cross supreme (1:18-31) as he had renounced it at his first coming to Corinth (2:1-5). The gospel is, however, a philosophy, God-given and understood thoroughly by the spiritually-minded (2:6-16). For this reason it could not be understood by their partisan carnality (3:1-4). Herein appear the preacher's God-imposed responsibilities (3:5-15); and here appears also the people's position as God-founded people, above all party and all philosophy (3:16-23).

In verses 16, 17 Paul appeals to ideas that were almost universal in the ancient world, but which have now vanished. Both Greeks and Jews believed that the place God had chosen to reveal Himself to man, belonged to Him in a very special sense, and was guarded by Him in infinite jealousy; and that damage or insult to the holy place would be followed by Divine vengeance.

Two verbs are brought into vivid juxtaposition in the original: "God shall ruin the ruiner of His temple." But we are that temple. Having been purchased by blood, we are not our own.

Observe now, the change: A man's work, if rejected, should be burned, but he shall be "saved, yet so as by fire." Amid the danger, God will rescue him. But if a "man defile the temple of God, Him shall God destroy."

In this light, how careful we should be that our bodies be kept separate from the defilement of things worldly, and separate to God's indwelling and Shekinah glory that we may in deed and in truth be "temples of the living God."

Thursday, June 3

### The Spirit's Empowerment

Dr. Delbert R. Rose

"Strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man." (Eph. 3:16).

Within the "greatest of all Paul's Prayers," the inspired Apostle beseeches the Heavenly Father for four, inseparably-related things in behalf of the saints while they are on the earth and in the body. First, he asks for the strengthening (re-enforcement or empowerment) by the Spirit "in the inner man" of each believer (v. 16).

Secondly, as directly connected with the first petition's fulfillment, Paul requests that Christ shall take up His home in the believer's heart (v. 17). This definite reception of the Saviour as Divine Guest and Abiding Companion is beyond that of turning to Him for pardon and peace. It is the joining of the Heavenly Bridegroom and the believer's soul in a life of spiritual union.

Thirdly, consequent upon the Spirit empowerment and the Saviour's enthronement, Paul pleads for the saint's enablement to grasp (v. 18), along with all the saints of all the Christian centuries, the measureless love wherewith Christ has loved His own (see Eph. 5:25-27).

enjoyment realizable by the redeemed: "to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that you may be filled therewith, even to the measure of the fulness of God" (v. 19). The soul's enablement to grasp, and its enjoyment of, the knowledge of Christ's love—rich, renewing, reaching out to all—can result immediately, according to Paul's prayer, from the Spirit's empowerment in response to a present faith.

Friday, June 4

### The Ministry of the Holy Spirit in Sanctification

Dr. Z. T. Johnson

"That the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost." Romans 15:16.

Whatever else may be involved, sanctification always implies two things—dedication and cleansing.

Dedication is the seeker's part. Before one can expect the Spirit to move in for the cleansing process, there must be a complete consecration and dedication to God and to His will. This may involve many things, but the ultimate peak of it is the process of dying out to self.

The death proposition includes our willingness for "the Old Man" to be crucified. When this is done, we are dead to pride, to unholy ambitions, to self will, to carnal jealousy, and to every other "root of bitterness springing up" whereby many are defiled.

This death process may involve the acceptance of a call to special service for God. It may be to the ministry, to the mission field, or to Christian leadership in the world of business. In accepting such an assigned task, we are simply renouncing our own will for the will of God.

When we are thus completely dedicated, then it is possible for faith to operate within our hearts; and it is possible for the Spirit to take over. The Spirit will honor our dedication and faith by coming into our hearts to abide.

We know that the Spirit Himself has brought conviction to us and has brought us to a realization of the need of sanctification. When He thus comes into our hearts, we turn the keys of every door "in His temple" and let Him take over.

He immediately starts the process of cleansing His temple. It is His prerogative and duty to remove every trace of carnality. It is His pleasure to check through the house and remove everything objectionable to a holy life.

When the temple is cleansed, He testifies to our spirits that we are fully accepted of God. We thus enter into a state of "true Holiness" in which God is thoroughly satisfied with our dedication and cleansed relationship. This makes possible true fellowship with God.

Because we have this treasure in earthen vessels, there may be human failings and frailties which the Holy Spirit will deal with from time to time as we are able to hear. Given a free hand in our lives, however, He will gently correct, constantly guide, and always assist us "in perfecting Holiness" in the fear of the Lord.

Saturday, June 5

### The Holy Spirit Can be Grieved

Dr. John R. Church

"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God." Ephesians 4:30.