

How True Change Comes

November 1, 2015

2 Corinthians 5:9-11

9 **WHEREFORE WE LABOUR** (*ambitious, make our aim, strive earnestly*), **that, whether present or absent, WE MAY BE ACCEPTED** (*well-pleasing, acceptable*) **OF HIM.**

10 **FOR WE MUST ALL APPEAR BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST; THAT EVERY ONE MAY RECEIVE THE THINGS DONE IN HIS BODY, ACCORDING TO THAT HE HATH DONE, WHETHER IT BE GOOD OR BAD.**

11 **KNOWING THEREFORE THE TERROR OF THE LORD, WE PERSUADE MEN;** but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

The **JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST** is the judgment of believers, which occurs following the rapture of the Church. If you appear in the Judgment Seat of Christ, you are eternally safe, heaven is your eternal abode. This judgment is the "*Judgment of the Believer's Works.*"

1 Corinthians 3:11-15

Romans 14:10-12

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

Revelation 22:12

The **GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT** is the "*Judgment of the Living Dead.*" It is the judgment of the unbelievers, the eternally lost and damned. Christians are exempt.

Revelation 20:11-15

How is it possible to live a holy life and please God?

1. **Asceticism** - disciplining and abusing the flesh into submission?
2. **Religious Disciplines** - will-worship, self-control, salvation by works?
3. **Deliverance from Demons** - sometimes to the extreme of denying depravity of flesh
4. **Psychology** - self-help principles mingled with Biblical truth?

True change that pleases God and lasts a lifetime is spiritual not soulish.

Soulish change is man-made in the mind, will and emotions. Soulish change is trusting in self-discipline, self-abasement, methodology, education, information, etc., but not trusting in Jesus Christ.

Soulish change can modify behavior and habits but never the nature or character, therefore soulish change is not acceptable to God. It is the "*shadow*" of change, but never the true "*substance*" of change (Col 2:17).

True change, acceptable and pleasing to God, takes place much deeper in the spirit. It is God-made, not man-made, and transforms the very nature and character.

Colossians 2:8–23 NAS

8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,

10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

11 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;

12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

16 Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day—

17 things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

18 Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,

19 and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.

20 If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as,

21 “Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!”

22 (which all refer to things destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men?

23 These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.

God’s change is performed by the ministries of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit working in divine unison, to bring into reality, in our lives, what Jesus accomplished on the cross and in the resurrection.

The Holy Spirit gives us spiritual insight and illumination to understand the things of God which no human intellect could ever understand.

John 6:60–63

60 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?

61 When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?

62 What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?

63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

John 16:12–15

12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

1 Corinthians 2:12–16

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Genuine change, initiated and performed by God, is the result of the combined ministries of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit.

In that spiritual insight and illumination, our nature and our character are rewritten, reprogrammed, recreated and we never think, perceive, react or act the same way ever again. This divine transformation of the Word and Spirit goes beyond our intellect, will, emotions, behaviors and habits, deep into the realm of our motives, the secret counsels of our heart.

2 Corinthians 3:1–18

3 FORASMUCH AS YE ARE MANIFESTLY DECLARED TO BE THE EPISTLE OF CHRIST MINISTERED BY US, WRITTEN (*engrapho - engrave, inscribe, write in*) NOT WITH INK, BUT WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD; NOT IN TABLES OF STONE, BUT IN FLESHY TABLES OF THE HEART.

18 BUT WE ALL, WITH OPEN FACE BEHOLDING AS IN A GLASS THE GLORY OF THE LORD, ARE CHANGED INTO THE SAME IMAGE FROM GLORY TO GLORY, EVEN AS BY THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD.

Hebrews 8:10-11

10 For **THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE** with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; **I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR MIND, AND WRITE THEM IN THEIR HEARTS**: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: **FOR ALL SHALL KNOW ME, FROM THE LEAST TO THE GREATEST**.

2 Peter 1:1-3

1 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

2 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

3 WHEREBY ARE GIVEN UNTO US EXCEEDING GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES: THAT BY THESE YE MIGHT BE PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE, HAVING ESCAPED THE CORRUPTION THAT IS IN THE WORLD THROUGH LUST.

Romans 12:2

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye **TRANSFORMED** (*metamorphoo - transform, transfigure, changed into another form*) by the **RENEWING** (*anakainosis - renovation*) **OF YOUR MIND**, that **YE MAY PROVE** what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Signs that the Word of God is alive and working in your heart and life:

1. *losing the desire for old habits, lusts and sins*
2. *losing interest in defending or promoting self*
3. *continual longing for and communion with God*
4. *increased hunger for the Word*
5. *less and less in common with unbelievers*
6. *willingness to suffer for the sake of Christ*
7. *the ability to see through the vanity and emptiness of the world system*

The ministry of the Word of God in our hearts must be guarded and nurtured at all costs.

Colossians 3:16

"**LET THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL IN YOU RICHLY** (*abundantly*) **IN ALL WISDOM**; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

Mark 4:14-20

14 **THE SOWER SOWETH THE WORD.**

15 **AND THESE ARE THEY BY THE WAY SIDE, WHERE THE WORD IS SOWN; BUT WHEN THEY HAVE HEARD, SATAN COMETH IMMEDIATELY, AND TAKETH AWAY THE WORD THAT WAS SOWN IN THEIR HEARTS.**

16 **AND THESE ARE THEY LIKEWISE WHICH ARE SOWN ON STONY GROUND; WHO, WHEN THEY HAVE HEARD THE WORD, IMMEDIATELY RECEIVE IT WITH GLADNESS;**

17 **AND HAVE NO ROOT IN THEMSELVES, AND SO ENDURE BUT FOR A TIME: AFTERWARD, WHEN AFFLICTION OR PERSECUTION ARISETH FOR THE WORD'S SAKE, IMMEDIATELY THEY ARE OFFENDED.**

*Establishing roots is slow, laborious and requires great time and patience.
The rewards of growing roots is not visible or known until tested in the storms of life.
The storms reveal how deep the roots have grown and how big a storm can be endured.*

Mark 4:14-20

18 **AND THESE ARE THEY WHICH ARE SOWN AMONG THORNS; SUCH AS HEAR THE WORD,**

19 **AND THE CARES OF THIS WORLD, AND THE DECEITFULNESS OF RICHES, AND THE LUSTS OF OTHER THINGS ENTERING IN, CHOKE THE WORD, AND IT BECOMETH UNFRUITFUL.**

*Choking is a slow death resulting from life's priorities being increasingly crowded out.
The life and power of the Word die from neglect and lack of care.
Keeping one's life simple and focused on God's Word is the ONLY hope of victory.*

Mark 4:14-20

20 **AND THESE ARE THEY WHICH ARE SOWN ON GOOD GROUND; SUCH AS HEAR THE WORD, AND RECEIVE IT, AND BRING FORTH FRUIT, SOME THIRTYFOLD, SOME SIXTY, AND SOME AN HUNDRED.**