

Back To The Basics - What Does The Lord Require?

June 14, 2020

Luke 21:34 ESV

34 But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap.

- *In times of adversity, temptation and distraction, focus on the fundamentals.*
- *Don't turn aside or become distracted by current events or trends.*

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 ESV

9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please Him.

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

- *Seasons and trends will come and go. Political and social movements will rise and fall, but the one event that will never change is the Judgment Seat of Christ.*

Cultivate Relationship, Not Religion

- *You are not a Christian because of what you believe, say or do. You are not a Christian because you read the Bible, pray, have been water baptized or go to church. You are not a Christian because you admire and respect the morality and character of Christianity.*
- *There is only one thing that makes you a Christian - a personal, living, growing, transformational relationship with God through the sacrificial death and victorious resurrection of Jesus Christ.*
- *True Christianity is all about Who you know.*

John 17:3 ESV

3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

- *We err when we try to establish our own righteousness and spirituality by performance and outward appearance.*

Romans 10:3-4 ESV

3 For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.

4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

- *Though faith without works is dead, though we are known by our fruit, God does not focus on actions or performance alone, but whether that action is birthed in relationship.*
- *The focus and pursuit of the child of God must never be on outward performance; but the focus and pursuit must always be on knowing Him.*

Matthew 7:21-23 ESV

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'

23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

John 15:5 ESV

5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Focus On The Heart, Not The Appearance

- *The heart is the origin of every thought, word and action.*
- *Godly, genuine and lasting change occurs first in the heart before it manifests outwardly.*
- *Human nature focuses on outward appearance and performance to the neglect of the heart.*
- *Outward change in behavior without inner change in the heart is vain, empty and fleeting.*

1 Samuel 16:6-7 ESV

6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him."

7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

Isaiah 66:1-2 ESV

1 Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest?

2 All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.

Matthew 5:2-10 ESV

2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

7 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Luke 6:45 ESV

45 The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Psalm 51:6 NASB

6 Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom.

Pray Without Ceasing

- *In so many people today, their love and faith in God are growing cold and dying.*

Matthew 24:10-13 ESV

10 And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.

11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.

12 And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.

13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

Hebrews 3:14 ESV

14 For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

Hebrews 2:1 ESV

1 Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

Hebrews 2:3 ESV

3 how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?

James 4:8 NASB

8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

Isaiah 55:6-7 ESV

6 Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;

7 let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

Luke 18:1-8 NASB

1 Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart,

2 saying, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man.

3 "There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me legal protection from my opponent.'

4 "For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man,

5 yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.'"

6 And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge said;

7 now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them?

8 "I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

2 Timothy 4:6-8 ESV

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Trust In God Alone

- *Trusting God not only needs to be cultivated but also protected.*
- *Because you've trusted God in the past does not guarantee you will trust Him in the future.*

2 Chronicles 16:7-9 NASB

7 At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, "Because you have relied on the king of Aram and have not relied on the LORD your God, therefore the army of the king of Aram has escaped out of your hand."

8 "Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubim an immense army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet because you relied on the LORD, He delivered them into your hand."

9 "For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars."

Psalm 146:3-6 ESV

3 Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

4 When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.

5 Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,

6 who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever.

Psalm 118:8-9 ESV

8 It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man.

9 It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.

Psalm 33:16-21 ESV

16 The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

17 The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue.

18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love,

19 that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine.

20 Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.

21 For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.