

HAVE YOU BEEN ON GOD'S OPERATING TABLE?

TEXT:

Colossians 2:11: In Whom also ye are circumcised with the Circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the Circumcision of Christ:

Romans 2:29: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and Circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

The Divine Surgeon, God Almighty, performs a supernatural operation.

Theme:

When we view the fact that many children of God are either in the hospital or in a cradle spiritually, someone ought to discover the cause of this unhealthy condition of the Church. This causes the brave soldier of the Cross of Christ to be employed for the greater part of their time taking care of the spiritual babes who are always crying for the bottle.



Much of the trouble has been diagnosed as the wrong kind of diet. The devil has been peddling, or pawning off on saints, some chaff from his storehouse. It is, first of all, in the form of this teaching: ***“Do the best you can, even though you cannot help sinning a little every day in thought, word, and deed.”*** May God help us to throw a blockbuster at this soul-destroying heresy!



***2 Corinthians 7:1:
Having therefore these Promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.***

I do not expect a carnal Christian to be charmed by this scripture. Most of the present-day religion is a comedy to him who sees, and a tragedy to him who feels.

And would you believe me when I say that some have aroused a bitter storm of persecution over this, more so than if we had boldly advocated a terrible form of wickedness! The argument they make is: To teach a second work of grace in the heart would be minimizing regeneration; for when the Lord does a work, it is done perfectly.

Unstable souls might be disillusioned by the subtleness of this human reasoning, but here's what saith the Lord in:

1 Thessalonians 4:3: For this is the Will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

1 Thessalonians 5:23: And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 6:1: Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

Romans 6:6: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Stephen spoke of a people uncircumcised in heart. It is only those who are not cut off from the flesh who are snorting at the preaching of a holy life, for it is one's flesh that causes death to his spiritual life.

Sanctification is obtainable, because God commands it.

***1 Peter 1:16:
Because it is written,
Be Ye holy for I am Holy.***



To say that we are not able to acquire holiness, sanctification, or the Baptism of the Spirit until death is essentially charging Almighty God with requiring us to do the impossible. Who would dare bring such an accusation against Him?

If heart purity were an experience reached only thru long years of sinning and repenting, our Lord would not have required holiness of us *now*. In commanding us in the present to be holy, God gives us the alternative to obtain it, or to disobey Him. The decision is left entirely up to us.

It is our purpose to let the Word of God speak for itself.

Romans 6:14: For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the Law, but under Grace.



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

Growing out of the loose conception of sin, and forgetting that God declares that the soul that sins shall surely die, and that he that is born of God sinneth not — a tide of worldliness has rolled into the Church.

What shall we do about it?

Draw a line between the Church and the world. Unmask carnality and call it what God calls it. Raise anew the true standard of Salvation and preach a Spirit-filled life. The Divine solution to the sinning professor of religion is to remind the Church that there is no new doctrine, but the same Bible teachings, such as follows:

Matthew 5:8: Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Ephesians 1:4: According as He [Father God] hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be Holy and without blame before Him in Love:

Did you know that there are many creeds in Christendom that teach we are not sanctified in Regeneration? As just one example, the Roman Catholic Church has built a little side show to Hell called **Purgatory**. Purgatory, they teach, is just like Hell, except one day you will get out, but only after you have paid for your sin. This

is a totally false teaching which undermines the death of Jesus on the Cross, and is completely contrary to the Word of God:

John 3:16: For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have Everlasting Life.

Hebrews 10:12: But this Man [Jesus], after He had offered One Sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the Right Hand of God;

Hebrews 9:26: For then must He often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the Sacrifice of Himself.

John 14:6: Jesus saith unto him, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.

If men still had to pay for their sins, then Christ's Redemptive work on the Cross was for nought. Nor would He have told the thief on the cross next to Him that he would be in Paradise with Him that very day.

Luke 23:43: And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.

There is no way into Heaven apart from the Cross — not purgatory, not good works, nor any other form of doctrine.

I believe the point they are trying to make is that somewhere between the point of regeneration and admission into Heaven, holiness must be obtained.

Let's move on. If sanctification is complete at conversion, then every Christian — to be consistent and truthful — should profess entire sanctification. Is this the case?

If all who are converted are sanctified wholly, then the directions given In God's Word to seek holiness and spirit-filled lives are for sinners.

If sanctification is complete at conversion, then every man who is not holy is a child of the devil.

After a thorough study of the Will and Word of God — which for us is to be filled with the Spirit — we discover the difference between sanctification and regeneration. One deals with the actual sins, and the other with the nature principle inherited.

Ephesians 4:22-24:

22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in Righteousness and true Holiness.



Galatians 2:20: I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me, and gave Himself for me.

John 3:3: Jesus answered and said unto him, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God."

Holiness and sanctification are described as death, crucifixion, putting off the old man, and circumcision. There is usually a time for one to be dying, but there is a moment when death actually takes place. There is a need to get on God's Operating Table and let God work on our old nature.

The Children of Israel left Egypt

Egypt — where they were enslaved — is a Type of the sinful life. Pharaoh continually forbade them to leave Egypt until after the last plague where every first-born male child was killed, unless the death

angel saw the blood of an unblemished lamb over the doorpost of each household.

Exodus 12:12-13:

12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

They have gone through the Red Sea

This was a type of Baptism, and thru worldliness as just a passageway to the full spiritual life, and the dividing line with the world.

Moses Selected 12 Spies

Shortly after they had been in the wilderness, God told Moses to select 12 men, one from each Tribe, to spy out the land of Canaan which He had promised to give them.

Numbers 13:2-3:

2 Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan, which I give unto the Children of Israel: of every Tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, every one a ruler among them.

3 And Moses by the Commandment of the LORD sent them from the wilderness of Paran: all those men were heads of the Children of Israel.

But they – like so many modern preachers, perhaps — 10 out of the 12 reported that the country of Canaan which they desired had giants and walled cities; and an attempt to capture it would be the height of folly.

This is why so many Christians are sickly and undernourished. They are taught there is nothing better for them than this life in the wilderness.

Praise God for the minority report. Joshua and Caleb brought their report, stating it was an exceeding good land, and that thru the help of the Lord they could easily obtain it. As a proof of how good it was, they brought a sample of the blessings from there. As then, so now, the people today accept the majority report — and wander in the wilderness all their lives.



Brother, can you endure your religion of murmuring and complaining and going in circles with the same old diet as the Israelites did in the wilderness?

I am going to enjoy my religion, and there is no sense telling me one can't get into Canaan. You have come too late with your warning. Bless God for Joshua and Caleb. I got in on the miracle, crossing the Jordan — a type of Spirit Baptism.

All the unbelievers — in this power of God's leadership to fight against the enemies of the Spirit — died in the wilderness. Thank God for those who still go through!

God gave the directions for the crossing of the Jordan, and the people consecrated themselves in preparation for the crossing.

We must do the same. Many difficulties will be encountered as the flesh sights the impossibilities of crossing at this time when the waters are overflowing their banks. It seems that the distance now is so much longer than if they wait the subsiding of the river.

There will always be something to keep you on the wrong side. The devil fights this life of your new liberty and power in Christ so much that you might lose your mind, or become a fanatic, or lose your best friends. But he is not my true friend who keeps me back, or opposes my loving and serving Jesus with all my heart. When it is impossible to man, God must make the opening.

Saints, if this experience were not for us, what motive and purpose would God have in giving us such a plain picture in the Old Testament, and giving us such commands in the New Testament?

Hebrews 12:14: Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

God has these hard, bitter pills for us to swallow. The first is as bad as the second.

The first is in relationship to our fellow humans, and

The second has to do with our going to Heaven.

The moment there is a cloud between us and our neighbor, there also comes a cloud between us and our Saviour. We cannot afford any such clouds, because the peace is greatly needed to steady us in these days when it seems the world has gone mad.

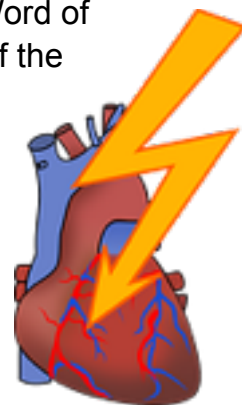
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Tenseness is on every hand. The sound of marching feet, passing by for army training is increasing with deafening rapidity all over the world. Kings pace the floors of their castles. Nerves crack and break beneath the strain. Radios belch forth their shabby messages from the propaganda room of slander and deceit. Women scan the daily press for the names of members of their families.

As the sinister clouds get thicker, the Christian knows they are the advancing messengers of that final day when we shall leave this veil of sorrows to be with Jesus -- which is far better.

There is, however, a far more important instruction given in the Word of God than we can realize. There is no question but that the end of the age is upon us. **The most noticeable sign is the apostasy which has crept into the churches. It is the final indication of the collapse of civilization.** "Men's hearts are failing them for fear after the things coming on the face of the earth."

Luke 21:26: Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of Heaven shall be shaken.



Let us therefore be found in Him, Christ Jesus, and not have our own righteousness which is by the Law, but that which is by the faith of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 6:14-16:

14 That thou keep this Commandment without spot, unrebukable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:

15 Which in His times He shall shew, Who is the blessed and only potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the Light which no man can approach unto; Whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to Whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

The root meaning of holiness is separation, conveyed to the Children of Israel by separating clean from unclean beasts. Only those without blemish, spot, or physical deformities could be offered to the Lord, then, in the Nazarite consecration.

Separation is not holiness, but it is a way to it.

Although there can be no holiness without separation, there can be no separation that does not lead to holiness.

Separation is not holiness, but it is a way to it.

Holiness is also more cleansing, as of the priest – Exodus 29:1-37.

Isaiah 52:11b: be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord.

Holiness is complete. We get this Revelation by looking at the Tabernacle which consisted of the Outer Court, the Holy Place (the Inner court), and the Holy of Holies. Every Israelite knew that God, in His Shekinah Glory, dwelt in the Holy of Holies, and that only the high priest could enter therein. In fact, he could only enter once a year (on Yom Kippur), and with a blood sacrifice for his own sins, and for the sins of all the people. Before entering, the high priest washed his body with water; then put on white linen garments, then applied anointing oil.



The entrance into the Holy of Holies was a most solemn moment. The people would stand by in silence and suspense. If the priest would appear again to them, they knew God had received their sin offering and that they could go their way rejoicing,

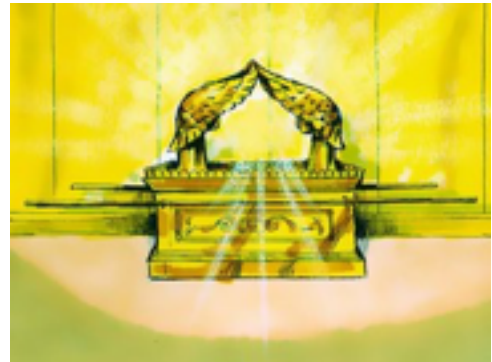
singing songs unto the Lord. But if the priest entered without the required preliminaries of purification, he was smitten dead at the instant he entered the Holy of Holies. This was the case with the two sons of Aaron who disobeyed the command of the Lord and offered strange fire before the Altar. A bolt of fire consumed them on the spot.

All around where God dwelt in times past has the word Holy associated with it — The Holy City - The Holy Mount.

In Exodus, God tells He will reveal Himself as the Holy One of Israel, adding more impressiveness to the sacredness of this Holy of Holies.

Exodus 25:22: [These are the Words of the Lord God]

And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the Mercy Seat, from between the two Cherubims which are upon the Ark of the Testimony, of all things which I will give thee in Commandment unto the Children of Israel.



The final revelation is thru Christ, and shows the deeper significance.

The holiness movement is the oldest thing in the world. It got its start in Heaven. (Moses and Joshua were told to take their shoes off, for ground they stood on was Holy ground, for God was there.)

Ephesians 1:4: According as He [Father God] hath chosen us in Him [Jesus] before the foundation of the world, that we should be Holy and without blame before Him in Love:

The life of every truly consecrated Christian is a voyage of exploits and supernatural impossibilities by faith in Jesus.

The Word of God records how Ben Hadad said:

1 Kings 20:3-4:

3 Thy silver and thy gold is mine; thy wives also and thy children, even the goodliest, are mine.

4 And the king of Israel answered and said, "My lord, O king, according to thy saying, I am thine, and all that I have."

Here we have surrender in its fullest extent. This is the kind of surrender we need to make in order to meet the conditions of God's blessing.

You know in daily life what surrender is. I have a pen in my pocket. That pen is absolutely surrendered to the one work of writing. That pen must be fully surrendered to my hand if I am to write properly with it. If another holds part of it, I cannot write properly.

Romans 8:7: Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the Law of God, neither indeed can be.

Paul does not say the carnal mind is opposed to God merely, but it is a positive enemy!

THE CARNAL MIND

**It is not corrupt, but corruption;
Not rebellious, but rebellion;
Not wicked, but it is wickedness.**

Jeremiah 17:9: The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

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