

You Must Be Born Again

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

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1 Corinthians 2:11-16 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. 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. 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. 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. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Luke 12:23 The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment.

Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

- I. In his unconverted state man is carnal in his nature – not spiritual.
 - A. He is in the world and of the world, and as far as he is concerned all his plans, desires, pleasures, and hopes are to be found in this world and in this life.
 - B. He does not look or imagine beyond his prison cell walls for anything to hope for, plan for, prepare for, or to desire.
 - C. He is boxed in by the world and all the information he has is of the world around him, and most of it is false or fantasy.

- II. After a person is truly converted and born again of the Spirit of God they are freed from bonds of a carnal nature.
 - A. His spiritual eyes are opened and he can SEE outside of the prison cell of a carnal mind.
 - B. He has learned there is more to life than what he can perceive with his physical senses.
 - C. He has learned that everything in the physical realm is moved and orchestrated by spiritual powers that he has been completely unaware of until now.
 - D. This changes the whole game of life for him.
 1. Instead of wrestling against flesh and blood, he realizes the warfare and the struggle is really with spiritual powers.
 2. He realizes that his mind is affected by spiritual powers that are vying for control of his mind, his heart, and his life.

- III. So there is the spiritual man and the carnal man and we cannot be both at the same time.
 - A. To be a spiritual man does not mean that we are considered by most to be “very religious.”

- B. To be a spiritual man does not mean that we are very knowledgeable of the Bible or of God.
 - C. We can be religious and knowledgeable and still be as carnal as we can be.
 - D. To be a spiritual person means that we are aware of the two realms in which we live and operate; not just the earthly, fleshly realm, but also the spiritual realm.
 - E. To be a spiritual person means that we engage with the spiritual realm in the fight against sin and evil.
 - F. It means that we realize that the source of all good and evil is in the spiritual, not the carnal realm.
- IV. This all translates into real life and practical application by changing the way we deal with the problems and the victories of life.
- A. When we encounter trouble with others at home, at work, at church, anywhere else, we look for the cause in the spiritual realm and not in the carnal, earthly realm.
 - B. We do not blame one another, but seek to stop the influence of the spiritual power that is inciting the discord.
 - C. When we encounter trouble or confusion in our own mind and heart we look for answers in the spiritual realm, not in our own wisdom, or the wisdom of others.
- V. Much of what Jesus taught and preached about was to try to help people to understand this basic truth about spiritual and earthly.
- A. John 3 – Nicodemus.
 - B. John 4 – The woman at the well.
 - C. John 6 – The bread of life; that it is not manna that falls from heaven to keep your body alive.

John 6:26-27 Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

John 6:49-51 Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

- D. Over and over He tried to explain to them the difference between their carnal ordinances and the spiritual truths that those ordinances had represented.
 - 1. They could only interpret the law of God through their carnal, earthly minds and had turned it all into oppressive religion that darkened souls instead of enlightening them.
- E. This was the condemnation, that light was come into the world and men loved darkness rather than light.
- F. We MUST be born again in order to SEE the kingdom of God.
- G. Without a new birth we cannot know spiritual things and we will operate in the carnal realm only until we die and perish forever.
- H. The natural man is blind to spiritual things concerning God; he is dead to the spiritual things of God.