

21 March 2023

But sin, that it might appear sin.

**Psalm 119:103-104: If there is a GOOD HATE that every one of us should know and embrace in our hearts, it is THIS HATE expressed by the Psalmist.**

The Psalmist loved God's Word, and so loved God! His Word was sweet to his taste! But sin was bitter and hateful to him! This spiritual dynamic should exist in every Christian's heart and mind!

Psalm 45:7: "Thou lovest righteousness and hatest wickedness"

One of the worst effects of sin upon us as Christians is when we no longer hate sin as we should, when we no longer view every sin to be anything but "EXCEEDINGLY SINFUL" ... and that every sin is terribly offensive to God, and against God; if this happens to you, you have strayed from Christ, you're not thinking right, and not in your right mind.

To be in your right mind, and to be thinking right as a Christian, is to have BOTH a right view of God...and, a right view of sin!

We ought to know what the scriptures say TEACH US ABOUT how God views sin...and this should teach us how we ought to view sin!

Habakkuk 1:13: "Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity" without being displeased... sin is highly offensive to God, and it should be to us! Psalm 5:4-6

One of the greatest confessions of sin, and realizations in one who had sinned, who was convicted and convinced of his sin is that of the prodigal son, it is recorded for us in: Luke 15:13-21

"And when he came to himself", he said... "I have sinned against heaven" which is just like saying I have sinned against God!

What was this young man before he came to himself? He was "beside himself" or as it means, he was out of his mind... and not in his right mind!

It was only after he came to himself, that he had both a right view of God and a right view of his sin.

Do you remember the man who was possessed of the legion of devils? Mark 5:15, also note Mark 5:4. The only one that could "tame him" and put him in his right mind was the Lord Jesus!

Look at this man, before Christ delivered him from Satan's captivity, he was a madman! He was out of his mind! Beloved both examples are a picture of EVERY LOST sinner before God saves them... they are "BESIDE" themselves! They are NOT in their RIGHT MIND! To be "BESIDE YOURSELF" literally means, you're out of your mind.

Acts 26:24-25, Mark 3:20-21: The fact is, both Paul and the Lord Jesus were in their right minds!

But now, think about those times when you have talked to a sinner about their sin and about Christ, and they got extremely angry at you, or they raged against you because you told them they had sinned.....this should help us to understand...that when a sinner won't be corrected, it is because they are not in their right mind, they are beside themselves.

**Back to what we said at the beginning... One of the worst effects of sin upon Christians in the world is when sin is no longer appears sinful.**

Brethren when this happens in US, we are beside ourselves, we are not ourselves, and not in our right mind...or who we should be in Christ.

You've seen Christians "beside themselves" ... when you sin, you are beside yourself, not yourself, and not in your right mind!

Remember David after Nabal insulted him, David when he saw Bathsheba from the King's Palace, Peter, when he denied Christ, James, and John, when they wanted to call down fire from heaven to kill the Samaritans for not receiving Christ!

This is why it is so important for us to constantly be feeding upon the word of God, but also to be cultivating God's truth into our minds and into our hearts, so that the Spirit of God might produce IN US a greater and greater love for Christ, but also, a greater and greater hatred for sin.

If fact, the scriptures teach us that we should constantly BE BEING TRANSFORMED in our hearts and minds as we grow and mature in the Lord!

It's interesting, Sunday, we talked about Satan and his ministers transforming themselves into angels of light, ministers of righteousness... that word transformed means an outward deceptive disguise.

But the transformation that happens in a Christian's life is not a disguise, but an actual change from within, which continues as you grow in grace. Romans 12:1-2, Ephesians 4:21-24

The more we love Christ, the more we should hate sin, especially our own! And when that happens, the less we will be found to be beside ourselves!

Psalm 139:23-24... SEE...LORD, that which I cannot see and reveal it to me that I might turn from it!