

SOME CONCERNS OF THE HEART
ROMANS 9:1-3

Introduction

1. Can we understand the concern the Apostle Paul had in his heart for the nation of Israel? The grief, the sorrow, the pain? They had rejected Jesus, and thus, rejected all hope. How sad!
2. There are some concerns of the heart that we should all be concerned about.
3. Our goal, as children of God, should be to press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 3:14**
4. In these last days we all should desire to draw closer to God in spirit and in truth. Here are some concerns we should all have.

I. FAR TOO MANY BELIEVERS ARE NOT LIVING BY THE WORD OF GOD.

- A. The sermons and teachings you hear from the preachers at Landmark are not an exercise in oratory, they're not an exercise in clever homiletics, nor do we consider our messages to be a duty. We consider it a privilege to share God's Word with others. **Psalm 138:2**

God has exalted His Word above His Name.

- B. The Word of God is a sacred trust given to us to live by. It is truth and should never be played "fast and loose" with.

On a radio talk show one day, a lady called up and said, "I want to know how to tell a good church from a bad one." The host of the program said, "What you look for in a church is fellowship, and sharing and caring people." Wrong answer! You can find that in a lot of places such as a bar, the Moose Lodge, the Royal Order of Goats, or whatever group you want to join.

- C. There is only one question to ask about a church, "How do they handle the Word of God?" **Psalm 19:7-9** ***The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.***

- D. These three verses provide for us the greatest comprehensive statement on the sufficiency of Scripture anywhere in the Bible.

- E. Six titles for Scripture. It is the Law of the Lord; the Testimony of the Lord, the Statutes of the Lord, the Commandment of the Lord, the Fear of the Lord, and the Ordinances of the Lord.

- F. It also has six characteristics. It is sure, it is right, it is clear, it is eternal, enduring forever, it is clean, and it is true.

- G. What are its results? It converts the soul, makes wise the simple, rejoices the heart, enlightens the eyes, endures forever, and produces comprehensive righteousness.

- H. What else could you ask for?

- I. The Bible is sufficient and I am deeply distressed when I read or hear preachers who think they have to manipulate people, or entertain them, to get them in the church.

- J. The Apostle Paul said this, ***For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation.*** **Romans 1:16**

II. ANOTHER CONCERN WE SHOULD HAVE IS THAT FAR TOO MANY CHILDREN OF GOD IGNORE HIS HOLINESS. **Isaiah 6:1** ***In the year King Uzziah died..***

- A. You might ask, "Why is that there?" "Is that important?" It is if your name is Uzziah. But you have to understand that Uzziah had been king for 52 years. The people felt secure under his leadership because he was a very good king. He was very effective in

- strengthening the land economically, militarily, socially, and had brought peace.
- B. So Judah had this guy for 52 years and they were feeling quite secure. Can you imagine having the same President for 52 years? But then, Uzziah died.
 - C. When Uzziah died, Isaiah the prophet went to the Temple to seek God. He wanted to find out what was going on because Uzziah was killed by God.
 - D. God killed him because he intruded on the office of the priest. He got to feeling so good about himself that he tried to play the role of the priest, and that was a sacred office, so God killed him.
 - E. Isaiah then steps into the Temple and wants to see God. He tells us, *"I saw the Lord, sitting on His throne, high and lifted up."* And the thing that he saw most about the Lord is seen in **v. 3**. The angels began to cry back and forth about the character of God, and three times they said, *Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts.*
 - F. Isaiah saw the Holy God in a vision, and the post of the door moved at the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. And then, Isaiah said, "Woe is me."
 - G. Do you know what woe means? It means, "Condemn me, curse me, judge me. I am wretched, I am wicked, I am vile."
 - H. Why did Isaiah fell that way? Because he saw the Great I Am, the King of kings and the Lord of lords.
 - I. I believe that many children of God do not understand the holiness of God. They are a six day servant of the devil and a Sunday pseudo Christian when they go to church.

There was a preacher here in California who said, "I have been to heaven and have a wonderful announcement to make, and this is exactly what he said, "There are no bathrooms in heaven.""

- J. My blood boils at such sacrilege, such mockery. If you ever saw God you would be face down on the ground crying out for His mercy. As a sinner in the presence of a Holy God, you would know that you are undone and a person of unclean lips.

III. ANOTHER CONCERN WE SHOULD HAVE CONCERNS THE LETHARGY OF SO MANY CHILDREN OF GOD.

- A. As a pastor, I see in some church members a lack of real spiritual commitment.

John McArthur told of a pastor from Russia who came to visit Grace Church in Pasadena where he pastors. "He didn't speak any English. He had heard about our church when he was in his own country. He wanted to see our church on his visit to America, so he came to our church. He spoke no English, only Russian. He had a lady with him who spoke Russian and Spanish, and she had a friend who spoke Spanish and English. We had a very interesting conversation! From Russian to Spanish, from Spanish to English, from English to me, and then back through the same circle. He said to me, "I just don't understand how you can minister in America, don't understand it, with such a low level of commitment." He said, "Do you know that no one in Russia would ever, ever pretend to be a Christian? They put Christians in jail. Unless you are one, you are not going to fake it." And he went on to say that every time they open the Word of God, everyone wants to feed on it."

- B. In **Matthew 19:16** the rich young ruler asked Jesus, "What must I do to have eternal life?" Jesus told him, *"Sell all you have and give it to the poor."* And then Jesus said, *"Come follow Me."*
- C. The Bible tells us that the young man went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.
- D. Salvation is a life commitment. This man went away because he thought more of the material possessions he had than he did about the condition of his own soul.
- E. Two things are basic to salvation - turning from sin, and following Jesus. That's true salvation. And I am burdened because I know there are churches where people are sitting, deceived, who think they are saved but are not.

F. Look at your life. Do you follow Jesus? Let me put it a simpler way: Do you want to follow Jesus? Do you desire to follow Him? And when you don't, are you saddened by that? Are you grieved by your sin?

Conclusion:

1. It's not that following Jesus is the perfection of your life, but it is at least the direction to take.
2. The truly saved person, very simply, loves Jesus and hates sin.
3. It doesn't mean they don't sin, it simply means that when they do, they hate it and repent of it.
4. The Apostle Paul said this, ***For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.*** **Romans 7:15**
5. Are you concerned about these things as I am? Are you concerned about your life/