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THE DIVINE STANDARD OF “AUTHENTIC CHRISTIANITY”

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MATTHEW 5:8

The 6th level in the divine life in our spiritual mountain climbing expedition that leads to the gateway of inner happiness is the beatitude of authenticity.

We learn from history there are three approaches to religion (salvation): There's the religion of the:

Head, which trusts in a creed or a system;

Hand, which trusts in good deeds:

Heart, which is based on purity that is given by God.

The issue and the authority of salvation is governed only by God's authority. And What does God say?

Ps 24:3-4 Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

Ps 51:6 Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts. . .

I Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for *the LORD seeth* not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

God wants us to “Be Different” and the only kind of difference that God will accept is a difference produced by a changed heart! God wants changed hearts!

Moving up to the next level in the divine life can best be achieved by understanding three divisions of thought about authentic Christianity. There's a:

I. PURITY TO EMBRACE (Purity of the Heart)

Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

Mt 15:16-20 And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding? Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are *the things* which defile a man: but to eat with unwashed hands defileth not a man.

A. Contrast to Purity

1. Its Example (Luke 18:9-14 Read these verses)

Mt 6:2 Therefore when thou doest *thine* alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

(I PUT ON A MASK NOW) In fact, I forgot, this is my Religious day!

2. Its Rebuke (Matthew 23:13-16, 23, 25, 27 - 29)

3. Its Caution

Jas 1:8 A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.

Jas 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

1Ki 18:21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD [be] God, follow him: but if Baal, [then] follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

Isa 29:13 Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near [me] with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:

Mt 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

B. Concept of Purity

PURITY: 2513 *katharos* {kath-ar-os'}: Denotes freedom from defilements, of the flesh and the world. AV - pure 17, clean 10, clear 1; 28 ; In essence, it means to be clean.

HEART: 2588 *kardia* {kar-dee'-ah}: Denotes the center of all physical and spiritual life. The vigor and sense of physical life and the centre and seat of spiritual life. The middle or central or inmost part of anything. The seat of man's personality. the soul or mind, as it is the fountain and seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, endeavors. The understanding, the faculty and seat of the intelligence. Of the will and character. Of the soul so far as it is affected and stirred in a bad way or good, or of the soul as the seat of the sensibilities, affections, emotions, desires, appetites, passions

There are three aspects of purity we need to understand:

1. Positional Purity (See Romans 10:1-3)

I Cor 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Php 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Tit 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Heb 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

1Jo 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Re 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, [who is] the faithful witness, [and] the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

2. Practical Purity

(a). How do we apply it?

Ps 19:1 I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvelous works.

Ps 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Ps 26:2 Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.

Ps 27:8 [When thou saidst], Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek.

Ps 28:7 The LORD [is] my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

(b). How do we acquire it?

Ps 119:9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed *thereto* according to thy word.

Joh 15:3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

Joh 17:17 ¶ Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Eph 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

1Pe 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye* love one another with a pure heart fervently:

3. Prophetic Purity

1Jo 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

II. PERCEPTION TO EXPECT (The existence of God)

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

“SEE” 3700 optanomai {op-tan'-om-ahee} or optomai {op-tom-ahee} AV - see 37, appear 17, look 2, show (one's) self 1, being seen 1; 58

1) to look at, behold (It especially indicates the direction of the thought [see Romans 12:2-3 the purity of hear also includes purity of thought or mind] to the object)

2) to allow one's self to be seen, to appear

There are two thoughts we need to take into consideration: God's Revelation to us and Our Response to God's Revelation. First consider:

A. GOD'S REVELATION TO US

“Purity of heart cleanses the eyes of the soul so that God is visible.” John MacArthur

There are three forms or facets of this visionary truth and experience. God's revelation in its fullest sense is not instantaneous but rather process oriented. (In my opinion, this is, in part, the joy of the journey)

For example, the Bible says, (SEE JOHN 4 :9, 11, 19, 25, 29 & 42)

Pr 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

He reveals it by His Spirit: (SEE I Corinthians 2:9-12)

There is the revelation or discernment of His:

1. Personal Attributes

a. Glory

Ps 29:4 The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, [is] the LORD of hosts: the whole earth [is] full of his glory.

b. Love

Ps 146:8 The LORD openeth the eyes of the blind: the LORD raiseth them that are bowed down: the LORD loveth the righteous:

1Jo 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

c. Mercy

Ps 86:15 But thou, O Lord, [art] a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

d. Grace

Acts 11:23 Who, when he (Barnabas) came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

e. Faithfulness

1Co 1:9 God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

1Pe 4:19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls [to him] in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

f. Goodness

Ps 33:5 He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.

2. Present Activity

There are three close, yet, distinct areas or objects of God current activity that He allows us to perceive.

There is the of God.

a. Work

But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. (John 5:17)

Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. (John 5:19)

b. Ways

Joh 15:15-16 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. Ye have not

chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and [that] your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

“for the servant knoweth not what his Lord doeth; designs to do, or is about to do; he is not made privy to all his counsels and purposes; these are only opened to him as necessity requires; which was pretty much the case of the Old Testament church, who, comparatively speaking, were used as servants; and had not the knowledge of the mysteries of grace, and of the counsels of God, as they are now laid open under the Gospel dispensation:” Gill

Ps. 103:7 He (God) made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.

“The people of Israel got to see what God did, but Moses got to understand why God did it.”

Knowledge is learning what God has said and done.

Perception is understanding why God said or did it.

Ps 18:30 *As for* God, his way *is* perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he *is* a buckler to all those that trust in him. {tried: or, refined}

Ps 145:17 The LORD *is* righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works. {holy: or, merciful, or, bountiful}

Isa 55:9 For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Ro 11:33 ¶ O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

Mt 13:11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

Lu 10:23 And he turned him unto [his] disciples, and said privately, Blessed [are] the eyes which see the things that ye see:

c. Will

Eph 1:9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

3. Prophetic Appearance

Tit 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; {glorious...: Gr. the appearance of the glory of the great God, and of our Saviour Jesus Christ}

B. OUR RESPONSE TO HIS REVELATION

Example #1 MOSES: SEE Exodus 19:9-11, 16-18, 20; 20:20-21; 24:9-10, 13, 17-18 (the tabernacle instructions or construction) 33:10-11, 13, 18-23.

1. Sin Forsaking Fear

Ex 20:20 And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.

2. God Honoring Worship

Ex 33:11 And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.

Example #2 JOSHUA: SEE Joshua 5:13-15

3. Comforted Committed Faith

Example #3 ISAIAH: SEE Isaiah 6:1-8

4. Submissive Humble Obedience

Is 6:8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here *am* I; send me. {Here...: Heb. behold me}

Example #4 JOHN: SEE Revelation 1:10-12, 17-18 (Also, Mt. of transfiguration in Matthew 17:1-7);

5. Compelling Spiritual Hunger

Re 1:12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

III. PROMISE TO ENJOY (Inner Happiness)

It is God's:

A. Gift to our life

B. Goal for our life

C. Gateway through our life

1Pe 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: {fear: or, reverence}

