

IDENTIFICATION- CHOOSE YE THIS DAY

We have been looking at the topic of our identification with Christ in His death, burial and most importantly, in His resurrection. One of the major hindrances to our ability to become all that we can be is the mind. Many preachers have been addressing this issue, and have rightly called it the battlefield of the mind. The only hold Satan can have over us as Christians is in our minds. Jesus has totally conquered him on our behalf. It is for us to realign our thought life to accept all that He has done. This week, we are going to contemplate another hindrance to our being totally one with Christ.

1 Kings 18:20-22 (King James Version) *“So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto Mount Carmel. 21And 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”.*

Last week we looked at being lukewarm. This week we are going to look at being double-minded. Elijah called it “halting between two opinions” James calls it being “double minded”. *“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. 6But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. 7For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. 8A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”* (James 1:5-8)

James 4:7-9 (King James Version) *“7Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.”*

What is being double-minded? It is being hesitant, indecisive, and irresolute. Such a person is unreliable and uncertain in their decisions. Their thoughts and emotions are in constant turmoil. They have no set goal or pattern for their lives. Everything that crosses their path, every situation seems to take them off course. They run hither and thither - always doing but never accomplishing.

We are going to look at these passages of scripture from the viewpoint of a born-again believer. There are many people today who are born-again, but because of the strongholds of their past refuse to make changes in their lives even though they have read and been taught the truth from the Word of God. They find all excuses not to make a decision to take a stand for truth because of the fear of the opinions of men.

We cannot make progress in God if we are afraid to step out and afraid what people will think of us. Jesus said in **Luke 12:46-48 (King James Version)** " *46The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. 47And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. 48But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more."*

This means that once you know the will of God - you have been taught the Word of God relating to certain matters, you read it and understand it - you are responsible for what you have learned and God will hold you accountable for going contrary to His Word. For example if you know that the Bible says not to swear, take the Lord's name in vain and use indecent or blasphemous words, you will have to give account for every time you do such, because you know better, and you will be judged more harshly than someone who never knew. Similarly, if we pray to or bow down before idols or statues and dead people we will have to give account because the Word of God is clear on those issues. The same goes for every other action and word we do or speak that is not in line with the word of God.

Once we are saved, God will not cast us away and He will still hear us when we call on Him, but these things will be hindrances and stumbling blocks to our becoming all that we can become in Christ. These "small foxes", if neglected will cause the crop to be spoiled.

This is why it is so important for us to get into the Word of God and see what He has to say about every issue in life. If the club to which we belong, the church we attend, the group at school (and even certain friends and family members) do not line up with what God says we should not be associating with them. We

need to get away from that environment.

This is not to say that we reject them or be rude, but we must not make them a part of our inner circle. "When you lie down with dogs you will get fleas". Psalm: 1-3 (AMP) says "***BLESSED** (HAPPY, fortunate, prosperous, and enviable) is the man who walks and lives not in the counsel of the ungodly [following their advice, their plans and purposes], nor stands [submissive and inactive] in the path where sinners walk, nor sits down [to relax and rest] where the scornful [and the mockers] gather. 2But his delight and desire are in the law of the Lord, and on His law (the precepts, the instructions, the teachings of God) he habitually meditates (ponders and studies) by day and by night. 3And he shall be like a tree firmly planted [and tended] by the streams of water, ready to bring forth its fruit in its season; its leaf also shall not fade or wither; and everything he does shall prosper [and come to maturity].*

Joshua 24:15 (King James Version) "*And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*"