

TRUST NOT IN WHAT YOU THINK BUT IN WHAT GOD SAYS!

Your Thoughts Betray You

Pastor Del Wray

Be careful of your thoughts! For that which man thinks to be good is often an abomination in the sight of God. Let me say it this way so that the man unaware may understand it. You say today, "Sir, I never attend the house of God, and up to this time I have been a thief and a drunkard." Well, you stand today on the same level as the most moral sinner, and the most honest unbeliever, in the matter of salvation. They are lost, since they believe not, and so are you. If the most honest be saved, it will not be by their honesty, but by the free grace of God; and if the wicked would be saved, it must be by the same plan. There is one gate to heaven for the most chaste and the most depraved. When we come to God, the best of us can bring nothing, and the worst of us can bring no less. I know when I state it thus, some will say, "Then what is the good of morality?" I will tell you. Two men are overboard there; one man has a dirty face, and the other a clean one. There is a rope thrown over from the stem of the vessel, and only that rope will save the sinking men, whether their faces are fair or foul. Is not this the truth? Do I, therefore, underrate cleanliness? Certainly not; but it will not save a drowning man; nor will morality save a dying man. The clean man may sink with all his cleanliness and the dirty man may be drawn up with all his filth if the rope does but get its hold of him. Or take this case. Here we have two persons, each with deadly cancer. One of them is rich and clothed in purple, the other is poor and wrapped about with a few rags; and I say to them "You are both on a par now, here comes the physician himself, Jesus, the king of disease; his touch can heal you both; there is no difference between you whatever." Do I, therefore, say that the one man's robes are not better than the other's rags? Of course they are better in some respects, but they have nothing to do with the matter of curing disease. So morality is a neat cover for foul venom, but it does not alter the fact that the heart is vile and the man himself under condemnation. Suppose I were an army surgeon, and there had been a battle. There is one man there he is a captain and a brave man; he led his rank into the thick of the battle, and he is bleeding out his life from a terrible gash. By his side there lies a man of the rank and file, and a great coward too, wounded in the same way. I come up to both of them, and I say, "You are both in the same condition; you have both the same sort of wound, and I can heal you both." But if either of you should say, "Get you gone; I'll have nothing to do with you," your wound will be your death. If the captain should say, "I do not want you; I am a captain, go and see to that poor dog yonder." Would his courage and rank save his life? No, they are good things, but not saving things. So is it with good works, men can be damned with them as well as without them if they make them their trust. Oh! what a gospel is this to preach in our churches; to tell those hedge-birds, those who are full of all manner of loathsomeness, that there is the same way of salvation open to them as to a peer of authority, or a judge on the bench; that there is no difference between us in the way of

mercy, that we are all condemned; that there may be degrees as to our guilt, but that the fact of our condemnation is quite as certain to the best as to the worst! "Oh" you say, "this is a leveling doctrine!" Ah! Thank God if you are leveled. "Oh," you say, "but this cuts at everything that is good in man!" Ah! Thank God, if it kills everything in which man glories, for that which man thinks to be good is often an abomination in the sight of God. And oh! if all of us together, moral or immoral, chaste or debauched, honest or unholy, can come with the rope about our neck, and with the weeds of penitence upon our souls, and say, "Great God, forgive us; we are all guilty; give us grace; we do not deserve it; bestow upon us thy favor, we have no right to it, but give it to us because Jesus died." Oh! He will never cast out one that way, for that is the way of salvation. And if we can put our hand this morning, no matter though it was black last night with lust, or red up to the elbow with murder, yet if we can put our hand on Jesus' head, and believe on him, the blood of Jesus Christ, God's dear Son, cleanseth us from all sin. Where is bragging now? You who have done so much for humanity, you cannot brag, for you have nothing to brag of. You fine gentlemen and noble ladies, what say you to this. O be wise, and join in the prayer, "But O Lord, have mercy on us, miserable sinners!" And may the Lord then pronounce over us his sentence, "Ye are clean, go and sin no more; your iniquities are all forgiven." Trust not in what you think but in what God says!