TENDER HEART

PSALM 19:12-14
10-22-2023

INTRODUCTION: ILLUS: of the hardness of people! (EX. Pharoah - Ex. 7-14)

Because of the hardness of hearts - people divorce (Mt. 19:8), people sin (Jer. 7:26). People don't see God's hand at work (Mk. 6:52).

NOTE: previous context. This closing prayer is the result of having been brought into the presence of God by His **Word** (Gaebelein, p. 93).

*** WE NEED TO HAVE A TENDER HEART!**

How? Two ways:

I. BY BEING SENSITIVE TOWARD SIN (V. 12-13)
(We should be afraid of offending God)

Sin grows!

Dominion...Great Transgression
(Defiance)

Presumptuous Sins
(Arrogance)

Secret Faults
(Ignorance)

A. BE SENSITIVE ENOUGH TO:
ASK FOR PARDON FOR UNKNOWN SIN (ignorance) (v. 12)

"Who can discern errors" - as long as we have an old nature, no matter how hard we try to remain loyal to God, we are liable to inadvertently sin.

"Errors" = to lapse into sin ignorantly. Not presumptuously or with a "high hand."

"Cleanse" = to clean from whatever stains or fouls. The word is used in Amos 4:6 of the plaque (scum) being cleaned off teeth.

The word means to be cleansed or exempted from payment or punishment for sin.

"Secret faults" = hidden sin (sin which is being hidden).

--The verb is passive (Satan hides our sin from us)

--The verb is a participle - sometimes hidden sins can be buried for a long time.

God required an offering for sins done in ignorance (Lev. 4:2)

Sin is sin whether we know about it or not!

Whenever we say something that is wrong (whether we intended to or not), we must ask forgiveness.

Nip it at the bud or it will grow!

Whenever you realize you have sinned, confess it on the spot. Keep it up.

Let Jesus keep your feet clean. He bathed us in salvation, and now He continually keeps our feet clean.
(John 13:10 - Lit.: "he that is bathed needs not wash except his feet."

When you sin, after determining to live righteous, don't say, "I knew it wouldn't last. I might as well give up." This is a Satanic suggestion. Rather - confess it and forsake it!

B. BE SENSITIVE ENOUGH TO:
DESIRE GOD'S PROTECTION FROM WILLFUL SIN (arrogance) (v. 13a)

"Keep back" = to restrain, hold back.

ILLUS: holding on to someone with rope, so they don't fall down while working on a high building.

"presumptuous" = willful, arrogant sin. When one is proudly disobedient to God. To knowingly and purposefully sin.

Whenever we sin (and know it), we are displaying PRIDE!

You are selfishly saying: "God, I can do this and I will get away with it" (or "It won't hurt" or "it's not that bad").

Presumptuous sins were so serious that God required stoning in O.T. (SEE Numbers 15:30-31).

Willful sins will kill you if they go unconfessed!

Praise God - the sacrifice of Christ was a full and final sin offering (II Cor. 5:21) that paid both for sins committed in ignorance and sins committed willfully.

Willful sins, when repeated, become dominant sins, which irresistibly enslave the person (Gaebelein, p. 93).

C. BE SENSITIVE ENOUGH TO:
FEAR THE POTENTIAL OF REBELLIOUS SIN (defiance) (v. 13b)

"Dominion" = to tyrannically rule, or despotically govern over.

NOTE: I am thy (God's) servant (v. 13a), so I do not want to be a servant to sin.

When you choose to sin, you have not merely chosen an act, but a master (see Rom. 6:15-21).

"Transgression" = not the normal word for "transgression"
( ) which means to overstep a boundary.

This word points to an outright revolt or rebellion. it refers to one who refuses allegiance to God. Refuses to submit and acknowledge God as his Master.

Why is sin so bad?
It offends God!

EX: Joseph's sensitivity with Potiphor's wife - "How shall I do this great wickedness and sin against God!"

The closer you are to God, the more sensitive (awake) you are to sin (EX: Isaiah, Job, publican, John).

"Abstain from all appearance of evil" (I Thes. 5:22) (every kind or type of evil).

Don't be calloused, hard-hearted, unconcerned (apathetic) about sin.

Ask God to melt your heart.

You may say: I don't need it! Then ask Him to forgive you for your hidden sin of self-imposed blindness because you do need it!

Keep short accounts with God. "If we confess our sins . . . " (I Jn. 1:9).

II. BY BEING SENSITIVE TOWARD GOD (V. 14)

(We should be concerned about pleasing God)

NOTE: David goes from effect (words) to cause (meditation).

The first place you reveal your heart from is your mouth.

A. BE CONCERNED THAT YOUR WORDS PLEASE HIM (V. 14a)

"Acceptable" = pleasing, favorable (EX: to seek the favor of a king) (EX: for God to accept an offering it had to be clean and without blemish).

Eph. 4:29-30 - "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."

"Out of the abundance (overflow) of the heart the mouth speaketh"

The point is not: "My words are OK if no one disapproves."

The question is: Does God approve?

B. BE CONCERNED THAT YOUR <u>THOUGHTS</u> PLEASE HIM (V. 14b)

"Meditation" = to mutter or ponder (by talking to oneself)

(EX: how we have discussions with ourselves when trying to figure out a problem)

You are what you <u>think</u>!

Do you want acceptable thoughts? Practice Phil. 4:8 - "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Beware of what enters your heart via the gates of your eyes or ears.

We tend to think that because no one sees our thoughts that they don't matter.

God sees!! he knows our words before we say them (Psalm 139:4 - "For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether.")

And He knows our thoughts (Ps. 139:2 - "Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.") (Is. 66:18a - "For I know their works and their thoughts")

CONCLUSION:

"My strength" = lit. rock, upon whom I rely when in danger of falling into the quicksand of sin.

"Redeemer" = the one who bought and freed me from the enslavement of sin.

We need a softness to the Holy Spirit.

READ Heb. 3:7-13.

"Harden not your hearts . . . the deceitfulness of sin."

--Be soft like a car with power steering (not a rusted gear box without fluid, without power steering)

--Be moldable like clay.

EX: people losing sensitivity - What we once abhorred we now accept.

Jesus said in last days, "Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."

"He that being often reproved hardeneth his neck shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." (Prov. 29:1).

*** Sensitivity toward God has everything to do with being sensitive to the voice of God as He speaks through Creation (v.1-6) and through His Word (v.7-11).**

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(We Should Be Afraid Of Offending God)

A. Be Sensitive Enough To:
<u>Ask For Pardon</u> For Unknown Sin (Ignorance) (V. 12)

B. Be Sensitive Enough To:
<u>Desire God's Protection</u> From Willful Sin (Arrogance) (V. 13a)

C. Be Sensitive Enough To:
<u>Fear The Potential</u> Of Rebellious Sin (Defiance) (V. 13b)

II. By Being Sensitive Toward <u>GOD</u> (V. 14)
(We Should Be Concerned About Pleasing God)

A. Be Concerned That Your <u>Words</u> Please Him (V. 14a)

B. Be Concerned That Your <u>Thoughts</u> Please Him (V. 14b)

Conclusion: * Sensitivity toward God has everything to do with being sensitive to the voice of God as He speaks through Creation (v.1-6) and through His Word (v.7-11).