

Thomas F. Chambers
January 1981

"TO BE SEEN OR NOT TO BE SEEN - THAT IS THE MOTIVE"

Because of the incredible capacity of habit we possess, it is possible to live most our lives without consciously being aware of our motives for doing what we do. For example, getting up in the morning, getting dressed, driving to work, or fulfilling everyday normal activities - where are your thoughts? What are you thinking about? Are you conscious of your motive and attitude behind your performance? Does it even matter what your reasons are behind what you do? The following verses make it very clear why it's vital for every Christian to take this matter seriously and determine to discipline their minds to be aware of their motives and attitudes toward everything that is done.

Prov. 15:11

Prov. 21:2

Prov. 24:12

Ps. 7:9

Ps. 44:21

I Chron. 28:9

I Sam. 16:7

Jer. 17:10

Lk. 16:15

Heb. 4:12-13

Rom. 14:12

"The fear of the Lord is the constant awareness that God is watching and weighing each one of my thoughts, motives, attitudes and actions". Bill Gothard

In the sermon on the mount, Jesus very clearly indicated that our motive makes a big, even eternal difference! At this point read Matt. 6:1-18.

What are the three areas Jesus is using to illustrate this truth concerning our motives?

For what reason does the hypocrite do things? How does he do it?

What is the reward for the hypocrite and where does it come from?

For what reason does the honest person do things? How does he do it?

What is the reward for the honest person and where does it come from?

In this context it's obvious that if we simply live to impress others, to get self glory and glory from men, that is the extent of our reward and it's also sin. On the other hand if we seek to please and glorify God out of a sincere heart of "love motivated" obedience to serve Christ only to be seen of Him, He will reward us openly.

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The following verses need to be written out and meditated on daily, in order for the Word to have its transforming and sanctifying effect on your thoughts, attitudes and motives.

"TO BE SEEN OR NOT TO BE SEEN - THAT IS THE MOTIVE"

Eph. 6:6

I Cor. 10:31

2 Cor. 5:9

Col. 3:17

Col. 3:22

Col. 3:23

Col. 3:24(25)

Remind yourself daily: WHO am I really living and working for?

The above verses have revealed the righteous motives and God-honoring attitudes that we must cultivate in all that we do. We must discipline ourselves for the purpose of holiness (I Tim. 4:7) by diligently determining to apply these verses to everyday living. (It won't happen automatically). This can be a life transforming factor in your life if you let it. When we purpose to live as unto the Lord, to please HIM in all we do, say, we'll be different people. We will not only gain reward that lasts forever, but experience true purpose, satisfaction, contentment and joy in the present!

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Rom. 14:12

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