

A Loyal Heart

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Those who do not seek to understand The One True God, those who are skeptical or even outright deny His existence, cannot come to appreciate, let alone comprehend the depths of His wisdom and love,

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good (Ps. 14:1; cf. Ps. 53:1).

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." ²⁰Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe (1Cor. 1:18-21).

But the natural man does not receive the things of the spirit of God, for they are foolishness to Him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned (1Cor. 2:14).

Arise, O God, plead Your own cause; remember how the foolish man reproaches You daily (Ps. 74:22).

For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, 'He catches the wise in their own craftiness (1Cor. 3:19).

God is not impressed with the doctrines of men, statements of belief associated with various religious organizations, or the rituals/traditions of numerous man-made religions that claim to represent Him. Instead, God looks to those who seek to obey His every word whole-heartedly (Mt. 4:4; Col. 2:20-23), holding fast to what is written in scripture (Dt. 13:4; Jos. 22:5; 1Thes. 5:21; Rev. 2:25),

...but on this one will I (God) look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word (Isa. 66:2b; Ed. note in parenthesis).

But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul (Jos. 22:5).

Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this (obedience) we know that we are in Him (1Jn. 2:3-5; Ed. note in parenthesis).

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome (1Jn. 5:2-3).

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man (Ecc. 12:13; cf. Dt. 6:2; 8:6; 13:4).

The only way to inherit everlasting life is through obedience to God's law and commandments, which includes faithfully and loyally applying them in our daily life (cf. Jas. 2:17-26; cf. see study: Self-Control; see study: Faith),

And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, 'Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?' ²⁶He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?' ²⁷So he answered and said, 'You shall **love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,**' and 'your neighbor as yourself.' ²⁸And He said to him, 'You have answered rightly; do this and you will live' (Lk. 10:25-28; emphasis added).

So he (Christ) said to him (rich young ruler), 'Why do you call me good? No one is good (in the ultimate sense) but One, that is, (Almighty) God. But **if you want to enter into** (everlasting) **life, keep the commandments** (Mt. 19:17; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Being loyal to God includes not being drawn away from spiritual commitments through the distractions and temptations of this physical life,

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (Mt. 6:24; Lk. 16:13).

Nor being double-minded, which is having your loyalty divided,

I hate the double-minded, but I love Your law (Ps. 119:113).

He is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways (Jas. 1:8).

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded (Jas. 4:8).

And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? **If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.**" But the people answered him not a word (1Ki. 18:21; emphasis added).

Our loyalty to God must not be lukewarm. Instead, we need to be passionate about His truth. God expects His people to put forth a concentrated effort to get to know Him,

'I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of my mouth (Rev. 3:15-16).

For this commandment which I command you today, it is not too mysterious (hidden) for you, nor is it far off. ¹²It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us that we may hear it and do it?' ¹³or is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us that we may hear it and do it?' ¹⁴But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it (Dt. 30:11-14).

Doing everything in our power to serve Him loyally with our whole heart,

Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, Who seek Him with the whole heart (Ps. 119:2; cf. vss. 10, 34, 58, 69, 145; 138:1)!

'As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and **serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind**; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. **If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever** (1Chr. 28:9; Jer. 3:10; emphasis added).

And he commanded them, saying, '**Thus you shall act in the fear of the Lord, faithfully and with a loyal heart** (2Chr. 19:9; emphasis added).

'**For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him...** (2Chr. 16:9a; emphasis added; cf. 1Kgs. 8:61).'

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor. 11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

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