05 -- DIVISION -- EXHORTATIONS TO HOLINESS -- (FEB. 27-MAR. 8)

27. Solomon, my son, know thou the God of thy father and serve him with a perfect heart and a willing mind. -- I Chronicles 28:9.

A willing mind precedes a perfect heart. Perfection lies much in the attitude of the will. Note two reasons in this passage for serving God with a willing mind and a perfect heart: (1) Filial respect, (2) God searches all hearts and understands the imaginations of all thoughts.

28. I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God. -- Romans 12:1.

Entire consecration sweeps the whole man into a lively, self-sacrificing, reasonable, holy, acceptable service to God. It is based on God's mercies. Every minister should beseech his people to make this entire consecration.

[Leap Year]

29. Having therefore these promises, dearly-beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. -- II Corinthians 7:1.

Filthiness of body is bad enough -- but what a humiliating descent is filthiness of the spirit! Who would not groan for salvation therefrom? Full salvation has two hemispheres (1) complete cleansing, (2) perfecting holiness. It is grounded on God's promises. It is offered to the truly regenerate, "dearly beloved." We do our part in this great work by cleansing ourselves. Then God does his part.

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MARCH

1. Do all things without murmurings and disputings that ye may be blameless and harmless. -- Philippians 2:14, 15.

Disputings and murmurings (either against God or man) will do harm to holiness and bring blame upon ourselves and upon the cause. Gratitude and peace conquer where complaining and fighting fail.

2. Above all these things put on charity which is the bond of perfectness. -- Colossians 3:14.

Put "all these things" in your bundle of real religion and then tie them all up with a cord of love drawn around them.

3. Leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ let us go on unto perfection. -- Hebrews 6:1.

How often will a sane man lay the foundation of his building and then allow it to fall down or be torn down or remain level with the ground before he completes the superstructure and puts on the capstone of perfection? Of what use the studies that end with the alphabet or with first principles?

4. Seeing ye have purified your souls . . . unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently. -- I Peter 1:22.

What a pity that our heart-purity should fail of its designed effect in perfecting in us unfeigned and fervent brotherly love! See to it that it does not!

5. Be diligent that ye may he found of him in peace, without spot and blameless. -- II Peter 3:14.

So that we may be ready to inhabit the new heavens and new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness.

6. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double-minded. -- James 4:1.

The Scriptures imperatively demand from sinners the cleansing of their hands, the pardon and removal of all past sins of a lifetime; from double-minded believers the demand for heart purity is equally imperative.

7. Let us draw near in . . . full assurance of faith . . . Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering. -- Heb. 10:22, 23.

We can do this because Christ is our high priest, because we have true hearts, sprinkled consciences, clean bodies, and a faithful Promiser (vs. 21-23).

8. Let patience have her perfect work. -- James 1:4.

Patience is perfection. Nowhere is perfect love more triumphantly shown than in patience. The perfect work of patience is the every-day common-place endurance of what cannot he cured -- no matter how trying to body, mind or heart.

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