

This sermon is all about the heart.

Delight yourself in the LORD and He will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4 and I said that we don't know those desires until we are found in Him.

Jesus came to give us life and life in all its fullness John 10:10 and again Psalms 16:11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

It's says in 1 John 2:15

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. This almost sounds like a contraction and can be easily misunderstood but if we read on in the very next verses it talks about lusting after evil things but whoever does the will of God will abide forever.

So we see God hasn't called us to live our lives like hermits isolating ourselves from the world but rather to be unspotted and to live a victorious christian life and to lay down our lives as a living sacrifice.

I said that all children are born belonging to The Lord and that children don't need to be born again. I also said that it was adults that needed to be born again when they grow up and allow sin in. Jesus Himself said this about the children

Matthew 19:14

But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

And in Psalms 127:3-4 Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth.

In Matthew 19.14 Jesus didn't elaborate He just simply made a statement that Heaven belongs to the children and if we didn't become like them we wouldn't be entering in. In the next verse it says that He laid His hands on them and blessed them thus signifying that all is well nothing else to be addressed at this stage in a child's life. This is remarkable really because unlike the way we get stuck in our theology Jesus doesn't seem to get hung up on things as we seem to. Ie when Jesus was sitting with the sinners and the prostitutes, He was accused by the Pharisees for doing wrong so He made this statement;

Luke 5:31-32

Jesus answered and said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

This is almost on the opposite scale of "There's none righteous no not one and all have fallen short of God's glory and need repentance". I believe the Bible clearly makes a distinction between certain sins and just human fallen nature. The OT calls them presumptuous sins (deliberate and premeditated).

Anyway So am I stating that children have no sin? No I am not. Am I claiming that even brand new born baby's are not born in Adams fallen sinful nature? Again no I certainly am not claiming this and finally am I saying that we don't all need Jesus to enter into heaven? Again absolutely no, not what I'm saying. By getting Margaret up I made this very clear that she needed Jesus as much as I myself did and also I as much as her. Can people be further away and other nearer to salvation, I believe yes. Jesus said to one young man when he came questioning Him about his own righteousness and Jesus replied "you are not far from the Kingdom"

(Mark 12.34)

And Jesus also taught in Luke 10 about judgment it would be worse for Sodom and Gomorrah than for Chorazin and Bethsaida so we can see there are different degrees of sin and different levels of judgement too.

Back to my original comments so I believe Jesus and His word teach very clearly about these different levels of sin.

1 John 5:17

All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death.

Jesus makes it clear which sins lead to death in Matthew 15:18-19

But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

I covered this by stating it's what comes out of the heart and why Jesus taught about a person committing adultery in their heart or saying calling your brother a fool could leave one in danger of hell fire. He wasn't just talking about calling someone a fool as the Bible calls people fools many times. Jesus was teaching about hatred and the spirit of murder and that it's first is formed in the heart. It's why John uses Cain as example and The Lord Himself said to Cain sin is laying at your door and it's desire is for you but you should rule over it. It's all down to our own choices at the end of the day.

James 1:12-15

In this passage James talks about temptation and how we are to resist them and that if we don't sin can grow and if it grows to fullness it produces spiritual death (obviously not

natural death as that comes to us all) I also covered spiritual death and how in death God divides light from darkness and righteousness from Sin. I used the day and the night as an example and said that they were visuals for us. The night is often described as spiritual darkness ie 1 Thessalonians 5:7

For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night and it says when Judas betrays Jesus that He went out into the night (into the spiritual darkness?) I also mentioned that in the new earth when God Almighty and His Son move their residence to this earth that there will be no more night, just one eternal glorious day that never ends.

I said that those who will go to hell will have everything that is good removed from them including even the ability to repent and call upon The Lord or even to remember His name. They will also not ever see Jesus (Hebrews 12.24) and even their human spirit will return back to God\* who gave it and that which could have been born again will be gone forever thus just leaving a brand new resurrected body but without a spirit. This is why it says repeatedly that there will be darkness, weeping and gnashing of teeth and the torments of eternal fire. Thus the state of that person will be awake and conscious for eternal punishment but also spiritually dead.

\*Ecclesiastes 12:6-7

Remember your Creator before the silver cord is loosed, Or the golden bowl is broken, Or the pitcher shattered at the fountain, Or the wheel broken at the well.

Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it.

Again I said on the other hand those who are born of God will on that day be truly born again. Thus the process of

saved and being saved fully completed. Again as it's says in 1 John 3:2

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

(This whole passage deals with us The children of God walking in Him, staying away from sin that leads to death, dealing with the fact that it hasn't been revealed what we will yet be? And keeping ourselves pure). This is a constant theme throughout the entire NT.

I also quoted the scripture from 1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

I said scripture makes it clear that it's not a done deal and that we have to run the race in a way to win the prize. What is the prize? A crown of life, Eternal life. That's when our sinful nature will be fully removed, I said Jesus has conquered sin and death but we are still in the thick of it. We have of course be translated from the kingdom of darkness and into the Kingdom of His dear Son but we need to stay there. It says that the flesh wars against the spirit and the spirit the flesh and so it goes on to say if we walk in the spirit we will not be fulfilling the desires of the flesh. What is it we experience when we come to The Lord then if it's not the complete removal of sin our sinful nature? Well it's the ability to walk on His path and walk in His grace, the attain the narrow path that leads to life. We receive forgiveness of our sins that separated us from God and given a new nature (a new heart).

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Is this fixed and a done deal though? Yes and No. it's fixed if we don't move away from that calling and it's not if we do move away the ownness is on us not on God and the constant theme of the NT is that we remain walking in Him. Hebrews 10.39

Romans 6 explains this in great depth as do many other scriptures like Philippians 3.12-16 which makes it very clear that we have not already attained perfection.

This is why it's says in 1 John 1:5-10

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. It's argued that this passage of scripture is not written to believers but unbelievers. This statement doesn't make sense as all the New Testament was written to the Church and for the teaching of believers.

I made it clear that it was all about Gods Grace and that I was a very happy lad when His Grace was revealed to me and that all I had to do is except what Jesus had done for

me on the cross but then His righteousness which is a free gift then should be seen in our lives. This is why it says we should walk as He walked and be perfect as He is perfect. Impossible with ourselves but possible by His grace and His righteousness that comes by faith.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

My statement about children not needing to be born again was not intended to be a theological debate about salvation. Sin is a complex matter that only God can judge. Ie what happens to children who have allowed sins in that lead to death like child soldiers or suicide bombers etc? Only God knows the heart and it's what's in the heart that will be judged (Rev 2.23). It's my own personal belief that all children start out as belonging to The Lord and in union with Him. I don't believe that scripture teaches that they are born estranged from Him, a sinful nature yes but estranged no. The context was about how I believe that from the moment we are born we have a union and bond with our creator. This may not be understood in the natural mind as that bond is spiritually discerned. I was making a point that being a Christian isn't about merely coming to church and doing certain things and it's not something new either is about discovering who the companion of your youth is?

Proverbs 2:17

Who forsakes the companion of her youth, And forgets the covenant of her God.

In Proverbs 2 you can again read that it's when one embarks upon a life of sin that leads to death you can quickly see how children can lose that bond with their maker. I went on to say This is why I said it was of utmost

importance for us to bring our children up in the ways of The Lord.

\*I know proverbs 2.17 is referring to her leaving her husband but I read it like a lot of scriptures have a double meaning like Proverbs 18.24

A man *that hath* friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend *that* sticketh closer than a brother and the love story in Song of Solomon etc

If you take the story of Cain and Able. The Lord said to Cain sin lies at your door and it's desire is for you but you should rule over it. After Cains dreadful choice of murdering his brother John describes him as being of the wicked one. When The Lord warns Cain, Cain had a sinful nature that he was born in to? But The Lord clearly makes a distinction between sinful fallen nature and sin that leads to death because He says it's lying at your door? Otherwise He would have said something different like it's in your sinful nature. My point is that choices that take people to hell not because we were born into sin. Able was born into sin but He made right choices.

May The Lord bless you all in Jesus Name.