KEEP THY HEART WITH ALL DILIGENCE
FOR OUT OF IT ARE THE ISSUES OF LIFE (PROVERBS 4:23)

THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT COMMAND."IF WE WOULD JUDGE OURSELVES, WE WOULD NOT BE JUDGED"(1 COR.11:31).EARNESTLY,IN THE SIGHT OF GOD,LET US EACH APPLY EACH SCRIPTURE GIVEN TO OUR OWN HEARTS AND LIVES.TO PROFIT FROM BIBLE TRUTHS WE MUST APPLY THEM UNCOMPROMISINGLY TO OUR OWN HEARTS AND LIVES.LET US NOT RATIONALIZE BY SKIMMING OVER THEM,REFLECTING ON HOW THEY APPLY TO SISTER SO AND SO."LET US JUDGE OURSELVES,THAT WE MAY NOT BE JUDGED".THIS IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO KEEP OUR HEARTS WITH ALL DILIGENCE.BRO.OR SIS.SO AND SO'S FAILINGS WILL NOT EXCUSE US.BRO.OR SIS. SO AND SO CANNOT BE THE CAUSE,OR CANNOT MAKE US DO WRONG.THEY CAN PLACE STUMBLING BLOCKS IN OUR PATH,BY WRONG WORDS AND WRONG EXAMPLES.BUT THEY CANNOT MAKE US STUMBLE UNLESS WE ARE WILLING TO STUMBLE THROUGH IGNORANCE OF OUR CHRISTIAN DUTY;OR UNLESS WE ARE JUST TOO LAZY,OR COWARDLY TO FIGHT TO KEEP FROM STUMBLING.

I AM SURE THAT NONE OF US KEEP OUR HEARTS WITH ALL DILIGENCE ALL OF THE TIME,BEING IMPERFECT HUMANS THAT WE ARE.BUT BY THE GRACE OF GOD WE CAN KEEP STRIVING IN THIS DIRECTION.YOU CAN KNOW TO SOME EXTENT WHAT IS IN A PERSON'S HEART,WITHOUT BEING A MIND READER.NOT ALL THAT IS IN HIS HEART;BUT THE MOST PART,BECAUSE "OUT OF THE ABUNDANCE OF THE HEART THE MOUTH SPEAKETH"(MATTH.12:34).AND HERE IS A BIG SECRET TO BE LEARNED IN CONTROLLING THE TONGUE.IF UNDESIRABLE THINGS ARE NOT CHERISHED IN OUR HEARTS,WE WILL NOT SPEAK THEM WITH OUR TONGUE."A GOOD MAN OUT OF THE GOOD TREASURE OF HIS HEART BRINGETH FORTH GOOD THINGS:AND AN EVIL MAN OUT OF THE EVIL TREASURE BRINGETH FORTH EVIL THINGS"(MATTH.12:35)."BUT THOSE THINGS WHICH PROCEED OUT OF THE MOUTH COME FORTH FROM THE HEART; AND THEY DEFILE THE MAN"(MATTH.15:18).SO THERE IS NO DOUBT THE THINGS WE SAY IN EVERY DAY LIFE,BETRAY TO A LARGE DEGREE THE STATE OF OUR HEARTS.

IT IS POSSIBLE TO KEEP THE REAL STATE OF OUR HEARTS HIDDEN MOST OF THE TIME,AND GIVE LIP SERVICE TO GOD.BUT THIS IS HYPOCRISY,MATTH.15: 7-9.IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SERVE TWO MASTERS,LUKE 16:13.ATTEMPTING TO DO SO IS TO BE DOUBLE-MINDED,WHICH IS A SIN;JAS.3:14.WE MIGHT FOOL SOME PEOPLE AS TO THE STATE OF OUR HEARTS BY RATIONALIZING,AND JUSTIFYING OURSELVES BEFORE MEN.BUT REMEMBER,"GOD KNOWETH YOUR HEARTS"(LUKE 16:15;ACTS 1:24,AND ACTS 15:8).

"THE LORD PONDERETH THE HEARTS"(PROV.21:2).YES,THE LORD CONSIDERS WEIGHS,AND THINKS ABOUT WHAT HE SEES IN OUR HEARTS."HE SEARCHETH THE HEARTS"(ROM.8:27),AND DEMANDS THAT OUR HEARTS BE SINGLE IN LOYALTY TO HIM(EPH.6:5).TO BE PARTLY LOYAL TO HIM AND PARTLY LOYAL TO WORLDLINESS IS TO BE DOUBLE MINDED.AND THE BIBLE CALLS THIS SIN,AND HYPOCRISY.NO WONDER WE MUST "KEEP OUR HEARTS WITH ALL DILIGENCE".

LUKE 21:34,"AND TAKE HEED TO YOURSELVES,LEST AT ANY TIME YOUR HEARTS BE OVERCHARGED WITH SURFEITING,AND DRUNKENNESS,AND THE CARES OF THIS LIFE,AND SO THAT DAY COME UPON YOU UNAWARES." WE MUST BE VERY CAREFUL THAT GOOD EATING,DRINKING(ANYTHING),AND "GETTING AHEAD",ACCUMULATING THINGS OF THIS LIFE DO NOT BECOME A TRAP TO US.THESE THINGS MUST ALL REMAIN SECONDARY TO OUR SPIRITUAL STATE OF HEART.ACTS 11:23 THE APOSTLES "EXHORTED THEM ALL,THAT WITH PURPOSE OF HEART THEY WOULD CLEAVE TO THE LORD".THE AMBITION,THE GOAL,THE PURPOSE OF OUR LIVES AS CHRISTIANS MUST BE TO "CLEAVE UNTO THE LORD" IN EVERYTHING WE THINK,DO,OR SAY.THIS INCLUDES EVERY FACET OF OUR LIVES.

AND SINCE " THE IMAGINATION OF MAN'S HEART IS EVIL FROM HIS YOUTH' (GEN.8:21),WE MUST CONSTANTLY STRIVE TO BE "CASTING DOWN IMAGINATIONS, AND EVERY HIGH THING THAT EXALTETH ITSELF AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, AND BRINGING INTO CAPTIVITY EVERY THOUGHT TO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST" (2 COR.10:5)."KEEP YOUR HEART WITH ALL DILIGENCE",BECAUSE THE "LORD KNOWETH" IF "EVERY THOUGHT" IS "BROUGHT INTO OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST".AND OUR ASSOCIATES KNOW A LOT ABOUT WHAT WE THINK BY WHAT WE SAY.

CHRIST MUST "DWELL IN OUR HEARTS BY FAITH"(EPH.3:17),BECAUSE "CHRIST IN YOU IS YOUR HOPE OF GLORY"(COL.1:27).ONLY THEN CAN WE SAY WE ARE "PURE IN HEART"(MATTH.5:8;1 PET.1:22).WE MUST"BE PATIENT AND STABLISH OUR HEARTS" IN THE LORD (JAS.5:8).WE MUST NOT ALLOW "BITTER ENVYING AND STRIFE IN OUR HEARTS" BECAUSE THIS IS AN "EARTHLY,SENSUAL,DEVILISH" STATE OF HEART.AND "WHERE ENVYING AND STRIFE IS,THERE IS CONFUSION AND EVERY EVIL WORK"(JAS.3:14-16).SO ENVYING AND STRIFE ACT LIKE CANCERS IN OUR SPIRITUAL HEARTS.WE CANNOT ALLOW THESE THINGS TO EXIST IN OUT THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS.WE MUST NOW "EXERCISE OUR HEARTS IN COVETUOUS PRACTICES"(1 PET.2:14).WE CAN DO THIS BY BEING ENVIOUS AND JEALOUS OF SOME ONE ELSE'S CLOTHES,HOME,FURNITURE,CAR,JOB,VACATION,OR ANYTHING ELSE. "KEEP THY HEART WITH ALL DILIGENCE".REMEMBERING THE LORD SEARCHES,PONDERS

AND KNOWS OUR HEARTS.THE LORD ALSO TRIES OUR HEARTS BY ALLOWING US TO COME IN CONTACT WITH THESE THINGS.(READ THE 1ST AND 2ND CHAPTERS OF JOB, PROV.17:3,AND 1 THESS.2:4).ANYONE APPLYING FOR AN IMPORTANT JOB IN THIS WORLD,MUST PASS A STRICT EXAMINATION TO SEE IF HE IS CAPABLE OF EFFICIENTLY ADMINISTERING THE JOB.JUST SO,IT IS BY HOW WE PASS THE TESTS OF THESE TRIALS THAT WE WILL OBTAIN APPROVAL OR CONDEMNATION.

THE LORD SAID,"WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS,THERE WILL YOUR HEART BE ALSO"(MATTH.6:21).IF YOU SHOULD HAVE TO MAKE A CHOICE BETWEEN BEING TRUE TO GOD ON THE ONE HAND,OR YOUR WORLDLY POSSESSIONS AND COMFORTS ON THE OTHER:WHERE WOULD YOUR TREASURE BE? WOULD YOU HAVE TO CONSIDER A LONG WHILE TO DECIDE? THE EARLY CHRISTIANS HAD TO MAKE THIS CHOICE.AND THE WAY THE WORLD IS GOING,WE JUST MAY BE FACED WITH THE SAME TRIAL OF OUR FAITH.WHEN THEIR HOMES AND POSSESSIONS WERE CONSFICATED THEY "TOOK JOYFULLY THE SPOILING OF THEIR GOODS,KNOWING IN THEMSELVES THAT THEY HAVE IN HEAVEN A BETTER AND ENDURING SUBSTANCE"(HEB.10:34).GOD GRANT THIS TRIAL MAY NEVER COME TO US.BUT LET US BE PREPARED TO CHOOSE AUTOMATICALLY THE TREASURE IN HEAVEN IN EVERY TRIAL.IT IS ONLY BY KEEPING OUR HEARTS WITH ALL DILIGENCE THAT WE CAN DO THIS.

FROM OUR HEARTS WE MUST BE "GIVEN TO HOSPITALITY"(ROM.12:13) WITHOUT GRUDGING"(1 PET.4:9).WE MUST FORGIVE FROM OUR HEART,ALL WHO ASK FORGIVENESS(LUKE 17:3-4).FROM OUR HEART WE MUST FORGIVE ALL AGAINST WHOM WE HAVE ANYTHING,IF WE WANT GOD TO FORGIVE US(MARK 11:25-26).WHEN THE LORD FORGIVES A SIN,HE FORGETS IT;FOR WHICH WE CAN BE EVERLASTINGLY THANKFUL.BUT WE MUST FORGIVE IN THE SAME WAY,OR WE WON'T BE FORGIVEN. (HEB.8:12 AND 10:17).

FROM OUR HEARTS WE MUST BE MERCIFUL,OR WE WILL NOT FIND MERCY FOR OURSELVES IN JUDGEMENT (JAS.2:13).WE MUST FROM THE HEART LOVE THE BRETHREN FERVENTLY,WITHOUT PRETENSE(UNFEIGNED).(1 PET.1:22).ALSO 1 PET.2:17 AND 1 PET.3:8.NOTICE THESE SCRIPTURES DO NOT SPECIFY,"IF THE BRETHREN ARE LOVABLE,AGREEABLE AND SO ON".WE DON'T STOP LOVING OUR FLESHLY BROTHERS AND SISTERS JUST BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT ALWAYS LOVELY.

GOD EXPECTS US TO ADORN THE HIDDEN MAN OF OUR HEARTS WITH "THAT WHICH IS NOT CORRUPTIBLE,EVEN THE ORNAMENT OF A MEEK AND QUIET SPIRIT, WHICH IN THE SIGHT OF GOD IS OF GREAT PRICE"(1 PET.3:4).IT IS A COMFORT TO KNOW THAT GOD UNDERSTANDS THAT GREAT EFFORT IS REQUIRED TO BE TRULY FROM THE HEART "MEEK AND QUIET".WE TRULY DO PAY A GREAT PRICE FOR THIS JEWEL.BUT REMEMBER THE LORD WILL REWARD GREATLY THOSE WHO LABOR GREATLY. "ACCORDING TO THEIR WORKS"(1 COR.3:11;REV.20:13).

PS.139:1,O LORD,THOU HAST SEARCHED ME,AND KNOWN ME.
2.THOU KNOWEST MY DOWN SITTING AND MINE UPRISING,THOU UNDERSTANDEST MY THOUGHT AFAR OFF.
3.THOU COMPASSEST MY PATH AND MY LYING DOWN,AND ART AQUAINTED WITH ALL MY WAYS.
4.FOR THERE IS NOT A WORD IN MY TONGUE,BUT,LO,O LORD,THOU KNOWEST IT ALTOGETHER.
5.THOU HAST BESET ME BEHIND AND BEFORE,AND LAID THINE HAND UPON ME.
6.SUCH KNOWLEDGE IS TOO WONDERFUL FOR ME;IT IS HIGH,I CANNOT ATTAIN UNTO IT.
7.WHITHER SHALL I GO FROM THY SPIRIT? WHITHER SHALL I FLEE FROM THY PRESENCE?
8.IF I ASCEND UP INTO HEAVEN,THOU ART THERE:IF I MAKE MY BED IN HELL,BEHOLD,THOU ART THERE.
9.IF I TAKE THE WINGS OF THE MORNING,AND DWELL IN THE UTTERMOST PARTS OF THE SEA;
10.EVEN THERE THY HAND SHALL LEAD ME,AND THY RIGHT HAND SHALL HOLD ME.
11.IF I SAY,SURELY THE DARKNESS SHALL COVER ME;EVEN THE NIGHT SHALL BE LIGHT ABOUT ME.
12.YEA,THE DARKNESS HIDETH NOT FROM THEE;BUT THE NIGHT SHINETH AS THE DAY:THE DARKNESS AND THE LIGHT ARE BOTH ALIKE TO THEE.
23.SEARCH ME,O GOD,AND KNOW MY HEART:TRY ME,AND KNOW MY THOUGHTS:
24.AND SEE IF THERE BE ANY WICKED WAY IN ME,AND LEAD ME IN THE WAY EVERLASTING.

IN CHRISTIAN LOVE

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