

For the Right Reason

Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

Acts 8:21

True Christianity is an attractive thing. What clear-thinking person would not want forgiveness of sin, eternal life, and a personal relationship with God? Christianity also offers a true sense of belonging and fellowship and an important sense of lasting purpose. Jesus' invitation to follow Him is wrought with difficulties, yet it offers temporary and more importantly eternal rewards. With all of these strong appeals, there will still be some who show interest for the wrong reasons.

Peter's words served as a warning not only to the sorcerer; but for all to examine their motives for coming to Christ. The text brings to light the necessity of having a pure and sincere heart in following the Savior. It is apparent that Simon the sorcerer merely sought another means by which he would be able to control people and elevate his self-importance and every element of his request reveals the motive of his heart. Throughout the scriptures, the heart is used to metaphorically describe the innermost sincerity of a person. True belief is to emanate from the heart. Confessing with our mouth the Lord Jesus based on that which we have believed in our heart is what produces true salvation. Later in this same chapter, Philip's life divinely intersects with the Ethiopian Eunuch who is a genuine seeker of God. When the eunuch inquires what hinders him to be baptized, Philip says he may if he believes with all his heart. And we should not forget the greatest commandment, which is to love the Lord God with all our heart, soul, and mind. Selfish and prideful desires can often usurp the proper motives for coming to Christ. Reputation, praise of men, or prideful self-gratification can subtly blind someone in rendering their service to God. When a believer casts off these counterfeit homages and humbly and willingly surrenders to the Lord, they then offer true and pure service to the King. It will no longer be important if others know or see what they do. Seemingly insignificant acts that we do produce satisfaction in knowing that we are serving the Lord Christ.

Today is another day to offer service in honor of the King of Kings. Pray that God uses the light of His Word and the conviction of the Holy Spirit to root out any lingering selfish motive in our service. Whatever is done this day, let it be done solely and sincerely from the heart to the glory of God. J. Ekis