

What is Your Standard?
Shabbat, 2/13/16

"A revival is nothing else than a new beginning of obedience to God."
-- Charles Finney (a.k.a. "The Father of Modern Revivalism")

Conviction vs. Condemnation
Holy Spirit The World

John 14:16-18 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper to be with you forever—the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive [and take to its heart] because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He (the Holy Spirit) remains with you continually and will be in you.

Opposite the world

John 16:8 AMP And He, when He comes, will convict the world about [the guilt of] sin [and the need for a Savior], and about righteousness, and about judgment.

HS brings conviction – “convince-ing”

His goal – to transform us into the image of the Son – change, humbling

- Emotions associated with being caught doing something wrong
- IDENTITY

Godly Sorrow

2 Corinthians 7:8-11 For even though I did grieve you with my letter, I do not regret it [now]; though I did regret it—for I see that the letter hurt you, though only for a little while— yet I am glad now, not because you were hurt and made sorry, but because your sorrow led to repentance [and you turned back to God]; for you felt a grief such as God meant you to feel, so that you might not suffer loss in anything on our account.

For godly sorrow that is in accord with the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation; but worldly sorrow [the hopeless sorrow of those who do not believe] produces death.

Holiness requires openness to godly sorrow

Choose LIFE! Say **yes** to the conviction of Holy Spirit

The wages of sin are death and worldly sorrow (guilt, condemnation)

The Deception of "Abstract Truth"

(The Spirit of) Truth is reality

Truth in the Church is under assault

- Not just departure from the inerrancy and authority of the scriptures
- THE EXPECTED RESPONSE OF BELIEVERS TO TRUTH

What we're used to:

Hearing good preaching

Offering mental assent

- "I agree in my mind with that message."
- "That was a good word!"

This isn't God's will for how we respond to truth.

There **must** be a change of thinking leading to faith-filled obedience.

Conviction -- transformation – godly sorrow

Being hearers of the Word only makes us PASSIVE

- Suicidal (and homicidal)
- Get FED instead of CONVERTED
- Propped up in our own faith instead of turning faith to action to save others

We don't need more Bible teaching, we've got so much Bible knowledge it's leaking out our ears.

- There are brand new believers in places around the world who get saved and within weeks have led dozens of people to Christ including most of their families.

Sitting on the couch elbow deep in a bag of Cheetos watching an exercise video fully convinced we're getting a workout.

The Prince of this World is deconstructing truth (reality) and we're following right along

Entertain-ment – to keep someone in a certain frame of mind

- "Just escape....abandon...reality (truth)" (End-times)
 - "Life is too hard – take a break – you deserve a little fun, pleasure"
 - The world is drowning and we're on the shore waiting for the Lifeguard
- > We MUST be renewed

We have the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16)

Entertainment isn't SIN.

Being led into a "frame of mind" other than that of Christ' by Holy Spirit is.

What are you allowing to lead you?

We are DISTRACTED from the pursuit of holiness.
From Latin *distractus* "draw in different directions,"
dis- "away" + trahere "to draw"

We have made truth an ABSTRACTION.
From Latin *abstractus* "drawn away,"
ab(s)- "away" + trahere "draw"

Our hearts are being drawn away from our Bridegroom.

1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world—the lust and sensual craving of the flesh and the lust and longing of the eyes and the boastful pride of life these do not come from the Father, but are from the world.

What is your standard?

Without God's standard for holiness, we will always set our own

- Usually keep it lowered to justify the pursuit of Self and the flesh.

Standard [*stan-derd*]

- a. Weight, measure, or instrument by which the accuracy of others is determined.
- b. A referring point against which other things can be evaluated

What is your standard?

- The world? [Talk about setting the bar low.]
 - But we judge sinners by the Law.
 - Is this to minimize our own sin by comparison?
- The mainstream church?
 - Does this produce holiness in you?
 - If not, it's hypocrisy and Phariseeism.
 - Don't forget that you're judging the **Bride** of Messiah

Beware of Messianic pride!

"Well, at least I keep the Torah and worship on Shabbat.
Most Christians are still doing the pagan feasts and going to church on Sunday"

Luke 18:9-14 And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Godly sorrow over your own sin, not just external obedience to the commandments is the sign of Holy Spirit's activity in your life.

God's standard is nothing short of PERFECTION.

Deuteronomy 18:13 You shall be perfect with the Lord thy God.

Matthew 5:48 Be perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

How does that sit with you?

Do you recoil a little at the standard of perfection?

- Does your mind respond, "No one can be perfect".

Note that these are both commandments AND promises.

- Are you willing to stand in disagreement with God?

What is your standard?

Our call is to perfection

From *Barnes* commentary on Matt. 5:48:

"Be ye therefore perfect ... - The Saviour concludes this part of the discourse by commanding his disciples to be "perfect." This word commonly means "finished, complete, pure, holy." Originally, it is applied to a piece of mechanism, as a machine that is complete in its parts. Applied to people, it refers to completeness of parts, or perfection, where no part is defective or wanting. Thus, Job 1:1 is said to be "perfect;" that is, not holy as God, or "sinless" - for fault is afterward found with him (see Job 9:20; Job 42:6) but his piety was "proportionate" - had a completeness of parts was consistent and regular. He exhibited his religion as a prince, a father, an individual, a benefactor of the poor. He was not merely a pious man in one place, but uniformly. He was consistent everywhere. See the notes at that passage. This is the meaning in Matthew. Be not religious merely in loving your friends and neighbors, but let your piety be shown in loving your enemies; imitate God; let your piety be "complete, proportionate, regular." This every Christian may be; this every Christian must be.

Completion of parts

A sheep without blemish [Describe]

Focus of holiness and godliness in EVERY area of our life

> not just holy on Shabbat – this weekly meeting is not the measurement of holiness in your life

Work, home, how you drive, how you tip in a restaurant

Fruits of the Spirit in your life

- Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness – in the hard situations

Integrity, whole and complete

- No enemies allowed to remain the Promised Land

You shall not make a covenant with them or with their gods. They shall not live in your land, because they will make you sin against Me; for if you serve their gods, it is certain to be a trap for you [resulting in judgment].”

Are you feeling discouraged – that PERFECTION is too high a standard?

- “I want to be complete and perfect, I desire holiness but I just can't seem to get over this sin or that bad habit.”

You're right, you can't. You don't have it in you. You can't be perfect in your own strength any more than you can save your own soul from hell.

Only Yeshua is perfect and complete – He is the only standard of holiness that satisfies the Father

Apart from Christ's life within you, you cannot be holy.

Most of us are not living life the way the Father intends

- Living in our strength, desiring to be godly but falling short daily
- Putting on a show (especially around other believers) so others will think we meet the standard
- Yet in our hearts, living with our own standard in place so we can justify keeping Self on the throne of our hearts.
- Dull to the conviction of Holy Spirit, wanting the emotion and signs of wonder that accompany revival but not willing to receive the baptism of fire that purifies us of our sin and worldliness

Galatians 2:20

You have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer **you** who live, but Christ lives in **you**; and the life which **you** now live in the flesh you live by faith in the Son of God, who loved **you** and gave Himself up for **you**.

We need to repent and be renewed