Sermon Notes – 12.04.2022

Commands of Jesus - Get Rid of Whatever Causes You to Sin

Matthew 5:29-30 "**If your right eye makes you stumble**, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30 "**If your right hand makes you stumble**, cut it off and throw it from you; **for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell.**

Did Your Eye or Hand Ever 'Make' You Sin?

What is Jesus telling us about how to obey this command? Eternal Values – What is truly precious?

Context of This Command is a Word About - Pure Heartedness – Sin Begins in the Heart

> "….has already committed adultery with her in his heart. " **Matthew 5:28**
>
> **2 Timothy 2:22** Now **flee from youthful lusts** and **pursue righteousness, faith, love *and* peace**, **with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.**

How Valuable is a Heart that is Free of Things that 'Make you stumble?"

Cut off & Throw Away from You – "Eschewing" – Casting Away

- To avoid using, accepting, participating in, or partaking of (TheFreeDictionary.com)
- to habitually avoid especially on moral or practical grounds (Merriam Webster)

"Eschew" - "Let him eschew evil, and do good" 1 Peter 3:11 (KJV)

Sometimes our Hearts and Minds Need a Special Word to Hold a Special Place

1 Peter 3:8-13 **To sum up**, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; 9 not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. 10 For, "THE ONE WHO DESIRES LIFE, TO LOVE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, MUST KEEP HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT.

Having a Hard Time Embracing All of These? –You Might Have Something 'Making you to Stumble"

- It Might be Something "Dear" to You Like and Eye or a Right Hand is
- We make room for Christ is our Heart and Life by Casting Away What Causes Us to Sin
- You Probably Won't Succeed Until You Do Some "Casting Away"
    - "Casting away" can feel like a funeral

11 "HE MUST **TURN AWAY FROM EVIL** (Eschew evil) AND DO GOOD; HE MUST SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT. 12 "FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE TOWARD THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER, BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL." 13 Who is there to harm you if

you prove **zealous for what is good**?

- People May Think (and say) You are "Extreme' or "Overly Zealous" If You Obey Jesus

Three Enemies of Your Pure Heart – Pleasing our Appetites, our Eyes and our Pride

1 John 2:15-17 **Do not love the world nor the things in the world**. **If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him**. 16 For all that is in the world, **the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life**, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 **The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.**

A Life Lived Out of a Pure Heart – We All Need Some Holy Spirit House Cleaning

2 Timothy 2:22 Now **flee from youthful lusts** and **pursue righteousness, faith, love *and* peace**, **with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.**

"The Truth" is the Standard for What we Should Keep or Cast Away

1 Peter 1:22 Since you have **in obedience to the truth purified your souls** for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another **from the heart**,

Psalms 24:3-5 **Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD?** And who may stand in His holy place? 4 He who has **clean hands and a pure heart**, **Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood** And has not sworn deceitfully. 5 He shall receive a blessing from the LORD And righteousness from the God of his salvation.

No "Cheap Grace" – Jesus Shed His Blood on the Cross to Save Us and to Set Us Free

Deitrich Bonhoeffer defined "cheap grace" as "the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline. Communion without confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ."

Important to have Names for the Enemies that We are "Tearing," "Cutting" & "Casting Away"

Matthew 5:29-30 "**If your right eye makes you stumble**, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30 "**If your right hand makes you stumble**, cut it off and throw it from you; **for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell.**

Let's War Together for Right Hearts Free from Offence:

- **In Faith from Our Knees**
- **In Life, Daily by What We Eschew**