

The Tabernacle Set Up and Blessed by God

[How to Draw Near to God and Protect our Heart]

In chapter thirty-nine we learned about the how the children of Israel finished making the items for the first Tabernacle. They made the cloths of service for the priests and High Priest. From the robe, to the ephod, the breastplate, the coats, the mitre and bonnets even to the girdle... all the items were made of beautiful and precious yarns of blue, scarlet and purple as well as fine linen. Some, such as the ephod, breastplate and the girdle even had gold threads in them. We learned the ephod was to have two onyx stones on its shoulders, symbolizing how Jesus Christ bears the weight of the world upon His shoulders for the salvation of all soul's rests upon His shoulders. The breastplate was to be upon Aaron's heart, symbolizing how Jesus Christ truly bears all of Israel (yea, all God's children who believe upon Him) upon His heart and intercedes for us when we need help (Rom 8). The mitre (turban) that was to be on Aaron's head symbolizes the mind of Christ that He graciously gives us through His Holy Spirit and Holy Word, so we can learn to think like He does. The precious yarns of blue, scarlet and purple as well as fine linen symbolize the righteousness, loyalty to God's Word, blood of Jesus Christ and royalty of His reign (and lineage). But, Jesus Christ gives these spiritual blessings to us when we study His Word and strive sincerely to put off our 'old man' and put on the 'new man' *which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness* (Eph 4:24).

We also were given a summary of all things that were made and learned of the Hebrew figure of speech that was used in those verses, which emphasized each separate detail and impressed the fact that nothing was omitted in building the first Tabernacle. This is important because it symbolizes the Body of Christ that Jesus is building today, with the help of all those who love and serve Him. *Nothing* will be omitted in the Body of Christ and it will get finished before Jesus Christ returns, because it is the very government He will use to reign with during the Millennium (Rev 20:4-6). We also saw how all the items were brought to Moses and, after he looked them over, he was very pleased to see they had done everything that God had commanded. That's why he then blessed them, giving His approval for their work. But what matters most is what God thinks of it. And what did God think of Israel's work? We're about to find out in this 40th and final chapter of the great book of Exodus...

Exodus 40

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

*2 On the **first day of the first month** shalt thou set up the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation.*

After everything needed for the Tabernacle was gathered and built, it was brought to Moses and what happened next? Did Moses just jump right in and start setting it up? No, he waited on God to advise him what to do next. This is greatly symbolic in itself for Jesus Christ (the builder of the *true* Tabernacle, Heb 3:1-6) did nothing without the advice of His Father, God Almighty (YHVH). In John 5:19 Jesus said: *Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of*

himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. He reiterated this again in John 5:30 when He said: *I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.* Then again, in John 8:28-29 Jesus said: *When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.* And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him. Jesus perfectly followed God's Will. He did nothing outside of God's guidance and direction. This is as it should be for us today too for in John 15:5 Jesus told us: *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for **without me ye can do nothing.***

So, Moses waited for God to tell him what to do next and God had a *specific* date He wanted the Tabernacle set up. It was to be on the *first day of the month*. Some 'food for thought' about this date: the Companion Bible has a note in Genesis 8:13 explaining that there are six important dates in the Bible that were on the first day of the first month...

1. Genesis 8:13 – the drying up of the waters of Noah's flood
2. Exodus 40:2 - the setting up of the Tabernacle by Moses
3. 2 Chron 29:17 – the sanctification of cleansed-up Temple by Hezekiah
4. Ezra 7:9 – the going up of Ezra
5. Ezra 10:17 – the giving up of strange wives
6. Ezekiel 45:18 – the offering up of a bullock the Millennial Temple

Further, in Exodus 12 God told Moses that ten days after the first month Israel was to select the Passover lamb. They were to keep it until the evening of the fourteenth day of the first month and then they were to kill it at 'evening', which means at dusk (#6153). Exodus 13:4 tells us that the first month is the month of Abib, which is at the spring equinox. On our calendar today, it is in the middle of March, roughly around the 19th-21st. [study the *Basic Bible Calendar* here: <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/202>]. Importantly, Jesus Christ was also 'selected' on the tenth day when the 'Jews' sought a way to kill him after he cleaned their dirty money out of the House of God (Mth 21, 26). And then He was then killed on Passover day, perfectly fulfilling scripture. The *Companion Bible* has an Appendix 156 that is quite helpful in learning about the timeline of the days before Jesus' death. [To view the apx: <https://t.me/BestStudyBible/12>].

So, the first day of the first month (and the first month in general) has historically been a very important date for Israel. You might keep this timeline in mind for there is coming a time when Satan will be kicked out of heaven (Rev 12:9-13) and he will be coming, with his fallen angels, *to this earth* to try and deceive everyone into thinking he is God himself (2 Thess 2). While we're not directly told exactly when this will happen, we can make an educated guess, from the Scriptures, that it will be shortly before Passover. To learn more about this, check out study #5 in a series of eight studies called: **Appearance** <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/440>. *This is just food for thought* but the study uses Scriptures to point to the *possibility* of this timeline for when we could expect Satan to be kicked out.

But, getting back to Moses being told by God to set up the Tabernacle on the first day of the first month (spring equinox, Abib) ... our Heavenly Father had good reason to tell Moses to set up the Tabernacle then. What would be the reason? Well, as we just learned, Passover was coming soon and God wanted to have this Tabernacle set up in time for that. But on a futuristic outlook, could it be that this is when the last of the 144,000+ are sealed (Rev 7) and God gets done setting up the spiritual Tabernacle (the Body of Christ) shortly before the great tribulation of the antichrist (who is Satan himself being cast to the earth with his fallen angels)? Don't take this suggestion as a 'fact' - it's merely a 'food for thought', but do keep it in mind when studying.

Exodus 40

3 And thou shalt put therein the ark of the testimony, and cover the ark with the vail.

Again, we see how God gives instructions based on order of importance for the items. Although the walls of the Tabernacle would need to be set up first, He makes sure to tell Moses about the most important item in the Tabernacle: His throne! Yes, the Ark of the Covenant, with the mercy set on top was (and is) God's throne (Rev 11:19). And He specifically instructed that the Tables of the Covenant be put into it (Deut 10:5) along with Aarons rod that budded (Num 17:10) and the manna (Ex 16:33-36), which Paul also confirms (Heb 9:4). Remember that God looks at the inside of our heart and mind (Ps 11:4, Jer 17:10) for that's what really matters to Him (not our appearance). We are supposed to learn to discern this way too. As God said to the prophet Samuel in 1 Sam 16:7: *Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but **the LORD looketh on the heart.***

We must learn to look at others with spiritual discernment (which is a *form* of judging). In Mth 7 Jesus told us not to judge, but He was speaking of judging 'after the flesh' (Gal 5). We know this because, in John 7:24 He tells us to judge not *after appearance* but then tells us to judge *righteously*, which means with spiritual discernment given by the Holy Spirit. While it is important for us to look upon evil for what it is (Ps 15:4 tells us that a vile person *should* be condemned in our eyes), we must learn to judge (discern) with the help of the Holy Spirit. 1 Chron 28:9 tells us that *the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts*. Paul explains further...

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

1 Cor 2:9-11

So, God's Holy Spirit does indeed help us 'judge' (discern) but it's not so we can be self-righteous hypocrites. It's *so we can learn to help His children*. And sometimes the Holy Spirit might guide us to plant a small seed but sometimes we might be led not to say anything. Right after Jesus told us not to judge (after the flesh) but to clean the beam (sin) out of our own eye first (clean your own sin out of your heart before you try and judge/discern others) Jesus also warned us: *give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you* (Matt 7:6). So, to God, the most important part of the Tabernacle was where He was sitting because it was His throne. However, it also symbolizes our heart because *that is where He wants to dwell*. Remember, He wants our soul to be a Temple for Him to dwell in (1 Cor 3:16, 6:19, 2 Cor 6:16). God also made clear to Moses that the Holy of Holies was supposed to be covered with a veil, which Jesus Christ has since rent (ripped open) after He died for us (Mth 27:51, Mk 15:38, Lk 23:45). We therefore can have *boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh* (Heb 10:19-20).

Exodus 40

4 And thou shalt bring in the table, and set in order the things that are to be set in order upon it; and thou shalt bring in the candlestick, and light the lamps thereof.

God also instructed Moses to bring in the Table of Shewbread and get all the items (dishes) set up on it and also bring in the candle sticks. These items are the only items that were off set from the Holy of Holies. Meaning, they were not directly in line with it. All the other items were in a direct line from the entrance of the outer court to the Holy of Holies. This order is important to understand because it teaches us how to come to Jesus Christ and be spiritually cleansed so we can communicate with our Heavenly Father. We'll discuss this more in a bit. Let's not forget that the Table of Shewbread symbolized the true Bread of Life, who is Jesus Christ, who gives us the true 'manna' from heaven (John 6:35-58, Rev 2:17). And the Candle sticks symbolize the seven Churches of God (Rev 1:20) who are to let the Light of Jesus Christ shine through them (Mth 5:14-16, 10:27) because He is the true Light (John 1:1-9, 8:12, 12:46). We must know the true Light (Jesus Christ) from the fake light because Satan and his servants also appear as light bearers (2 Cor 11:13-15). [**Do Not Be Deceived** - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/235>].

Exodus 40

5 And thou shalt set the altar of gold for the incense before the ark of the testimony, and put the hanging of the door to the tabernacle.

The only other item (aside from the Ark of the Covenant, Mercy Seat, Seven Candlesticks and the Table of Shewbread) that was to be inside the Tabernacle was the Altar of Incense. This was to be put directly in front of the Holy of Holies (where the Ark and Mercy Seat was) and was the item closest to it. Remember, the smoke that ascended from this altar is symbolic for our prayers (Ps 141:2, Rev 8:3-4). After all the items were brought into the Tabernacle, the hanging for the entrance (the door) was to be put up, sealing it off from the outside world. The other items testify as to how we can 'gain entrance' into the Tabernacle, to be near to God Himself.

Exodus 40

6 And thou shalt set the altar of the burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation.

The Altar of Burnt Offering was the first item seen when coming into the *outer* court of the Tabernacle. It was directly in line with the Holy of Holies (where the Ark and Mercy Seat [God's throne] were located). This shows us that: the first thing we must do when coming to God (through Jesus Christ) is to crucify the 'animal' *within us*. Just as the Priests killed and burnt the animal on the Altar of Burnt Offerings, so too must we repent with sincerity and strive to put down (kill) the 'old man' within us. This is speaking of the carnal mind (called the heart) that we all are born with (Ecc 3:11 - https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Ecclesiastes/6). This is the part of us that makes us want to act like 'animals' and that's why we must kill it! Jesus told us in Luke 9:23-24 that: *If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.* While we might face physical death for our belief in Jesus Christ, what Jesus was more so speaking about here is our carnal mind. He told us to deny our 'self' and take up our cross daily. You cannot die more than once physically (Heb 9:27) so, obviously, Jesus is telling us that we must deny our carnal mind (heart) and pick up our cross to crucify it on a *daily* basis.

As long as we're in a flesh body we'll have this part of us (the carnal mind) to contend with; it's always going to pull at us to sin. And we do still fall short, even after we've accepted Jesus Christ as our Savior. But we don't need to be 'saved' again. All we need to do is sincerely repent (daily) and work harder to stop the sinful thoughts, desires, intentions and feelings we have. We're only able to crucify the 'animal' within us when we have the Holy Spirit and the Word of God in our heart and mind. That's how we overcome the 'old man' and put on the 'new man'. And that is why this Altar of Burnt Offerings is the very first item in the court. It's the first thing God requires us to do. People who don't think they sin against God (or care) don't think they need Him. But those who are convicted of sin (even if it's only one sin they initially see) are convicted in their heart and repent sincerely for it. That's the first step to being able to communicate with God Almighty – sincere repentance. But it does not end there, as the rest of the items in the court and the Tabernacle testify to. What's next?

Exodus 40

7 And thou shalt set the laver between the tent of the congregation and the altar; and shalt put water therein.

The next item the priest saw after coming into the court (after the Altar of Burnt Offering) was the Brass (copper) Laver that was a huge basin with water. It was for the priests to wash with. After killing and burning the dead animal on the Altar of Burnt Offering they would be dirty. So, what did they need to do? They needed to wash, of course. The spiritual significance of this is clearly explained in the Scriptures. Shortly before Jesus' death, He washed the disciple's feet.

When Peter tried to deny Him, Jesus said: *If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me* (John 13:8). Then Peter got all ‘gung ho’ and said, well then please wash every part of me! But Jesus responded by saying: *he that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit* (John 13:10). Therefore, the priests of old only washed their hands and feet. Hands symbolize our works and feet symbolize our path in life. Jesus was saying that, if you allow Him to clean your heart then your path (course of life) will be clean. Isa 1:16-17 explains this when it says: *Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.* Jesus tells us that we are cleansed through the Words He spoke to us, which is the Bible (John 6:63, 15:3). Jesus’ ‘doctrine’ came directly from the Old Testament, so we cannot ignore it without ignoring Jesus Christ. 1 Cor 6:11 adds to this when it says: *ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and **by the Spirit of our God.*** If we read God’s Word, but do not understand it, it does us no good. Nor does going to Church and not actually being taught God’s Word. We must absorb Gods’ Word into our heart and mind in order for it to wash us spiritually, for as Jesus said in John 6:63: *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*

So, after a person repents for the sin(s) they are initially convicted of (that brought them to Jesus Christ in the first place) the Holy Spirit will come into them and begin to cleanse their thought process and desires. But, that’s not the end with our relationship with our Heavenly Father. If we want to be near Him, *we must keep going.* Remember, we’re only in the court. There’s still the Tabernacle to go into. But these first two processes (the initial repenting and allowing His Holy Spirit to touch and forgive us when we first believe in Jesus Christ) *are the first steps.* This is why seed planting is so important because it draws people to first accepting Jesus Christ and helping them with these first two parts. And truly, it’s a lifelong process to continue to see our sins, repent for them, and allow the Holy Spirit to wash us. But there is so much more to being a Christian than those first two steps. Following Jesus Christ is a lifelong journey. We can’t just go to Church, learn a little bit (if anything) in a sermon and be ‘done’ with the Bible. To truly go into the Tabernacle (draw near to God), we must *continue.* This means, we must *open our Bible.* Just as it the priest then had to open the first door (hanging) to the Tabernacle to get closer to God, so too you must open your Bible and... and what? Remember what’s in the Tabernacle? Ah, yes, the Table of Shewbread, the Candlesticks and the Altar of Incense. If you don’t study God’s Word *for yourself* (2 Tim 2:15) you are not going to learn of Him, as Jesus told us to do (Mth 11:29). You will stay a ‘babe’ in Christ your entire life and never be able to truly come close to God. Sure, He might hear you when you pray, but if you do not continue to get close to Him, how attentive to your prayers do you think He’s going to be? Remember, the Tabernacle teaches us how to get close to God. Why do you want to stay far away from Him? Do you like keeping your sins? You might have repented of some sins when you first came to Christ but we all have more sin we need to clean out and *that takes time.* So likewise, developing a close (personal and intimate) relationship with our Heavenly Father (our Creator) takes time and it can only be done through this process, which is what Jesus Christ helps us with.

We've already learned that Jesus died for us so we are not to perform the blood sacrifices anymore (Heb 10:10) but, if we don't learn how to come near to God, through Jesus Christ, we'll forever stay a 'babe' in Christ. This is not only shameful, *it's dangerous*. How safe is a newborn baby? Can it defend itself? No, it's pretty much helpless. And that's what you are when you do not study God's Word daily for yourself. You're defenseless against the deceitfulness of sin (Mth 13:22, Mk 14:19, Heb 3:13). Without protection from God's Word (Eph 6) you will at some point in time be drawn back into sin (Heb 6:4-8, 10:38-39) because you don't know how to defend yourself against the 'fiery darts of the wicked' (Eph 6:11-13, 16). 1 Peter 2:2 tells us: *as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby*. Don't stay in the milk of Christianity. Study God's Word (2 Tim 2:15) to grow spiritually strong so you can defend yourself against Satan's spiritual attacks because, they will come. Never forget that *we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places*. Therefore, we must put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand (Eph 6:12-13). Paul also warns in 1 Cor 3:1-2 that remaining a babe in Christ means we will continue to think in the flesh and not mature into thinking like Jesus Christ does. Gal 5 and Rom 8 make it very clear that we must grow and mature to learn how to put on the 'new man' so we can think like Jesus does, which is what protects us from deception. How does this happen? When we learn of God's Word, the Holy Spirit begins to guide us in our everyday life IF we allow Him to. Rom 8:14 says: *for as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God*. We must have the Holy Spirit guiding us to be able to defend ourselves against the spiritual attacks from Satan and his many evil followers. Our warfare is spiritual. This means **Satan attacks your mind and heart**. Some call it 'negative thinking' but it is much more than that. It's lust, pride, hate, bitterness, anger, and so forth. If you don't grow in learning God's Word and sincerely applying it to your mind (thought process) and heart (desires, intentions, feelings) then Satan WILL cause you to fall away from Jesus Christ - to willfully sin again. There will be something you find alluring (seducing) and you'll go for it. Please understand, we all fall short. But *habitually* (willfully) sinning is much different than *occasionally* sinning and repenting sincerely. And that (habitual, willful sin) is what we must be on guard against.

Without daily studying God's Word and allowing the Holy Spirit to truly help us change our thoughts, desires, feelings and emotions, we will not get our own sins out; and we'll continue to be enslaved to our sin, which is truly being enslaved to Satan. Do you really want that? Then, open the doors of the Tabernacle (your Bible) and step into partake of the Table of Shewbread and the candlesticks (the Word of God). Allow the Holy Spirit to help you see your sin and teach you how to change. Never stop working to get closer to God. Remember too that the Altar of Incense was inside the Tabernacle and was the closest thing to the Holy of Holies (where God sits on the Ark and Mercy Seat). If you try to burn the incense to God (pray) when you're not even inside the Tabernacle... how well do you think He's going to be able to 'smell' your incense (hear your prayers)? *He is much more attentive to your prayers the closer **you** get to Him*. James 4:8 says: ***draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you***. *Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded*. So, you can't just stay outside the Temple and say you've 'got Jesus' and expect Him to answer all your prayers. You have to draw nigh to Him and learn

of Him and keep trying to see your sins and work sincerely kick them out. The bottom line is that God knows when you are really being sincere. If your repentance is sincere, you'll stick with studying God's Word and trying to change your heart and mind. All too many get on an emotional trip when they accept Jesus Christ. But then they don't want to go any further into the Tabernacle. They want to keep their sins and still claim Christ. It doesn't work that way folks. If you want God to hear your prayers, you *must draw nigh to Him in the way He has told you to.*

1 Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

Isa 59:1-2

15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

17 And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;

18 Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

*19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, **Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.***

2 Tim 2:15-19

Our sins separate us from God; the only way we can get close to Him is by getting rid of them (which He'll help us do if we are sincere and continue to work at kicking them out). If you are truly serious about following Jesus Christ you must 'depart from iniquity' by studying His Word daily and striving hard to obey it, *from your heart*. You'll learn to develop a true relationship with God, through Jesus Christ's Holy Spirit and the Word of God being inside your heart and mind. If you stop trying to get close to God after you first accept Jesus Christ then you won't get close to Him. This is why there are so many self-professed Christians who are simply self-righteous hypocrites.

*The LORD is far from the wicked: but **he heareth the prayer of the righteous.***

Prov 15:29

*Now we know that **God heareth not sinners:** but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.*

John 9:31

5 They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.

*6 We are of God: **he that knoweth God heareth us;** he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.*

1 John 4:5-6

14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

1 John 5:14-15

IF we remain sincere in our seeking God (through His Word, the Bible) and cooperate with His Holy Spirit guiding us, then we know God hears us. Gal 5:24 reminds us that *they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts*. This is not a 'one time' thing. We must continue to crucify our *flesh with the affections and lusts* on a daily basis, as Jesus told us in Lk 9:23. The Tabernacle itself teaches us that we must draw close to God IF we want Him to hear our prayers; if we truly want a sincere and loving relationship with Him. Drawing close to God means we keep striving to put off our sins, every day. We have to *continue* to allow the Holy Spirit to convict us of our sins, clean us and keep learning of His Word. Cleansing takes time and being in a flesh body, our soul gets dirty. It's like walking in a dirt road with sandals on; your feet are going to get dirty. So does our soul get dirty in a flesh body. We must continue to cleanse ourselves in the way the Word of God (and this Tabernacle) teach us to, IF we want to be close to God. Which, by the way, is the only way to obtain eternal life (John 14:6). So, don't give up praying to God, in Jesus' name. But also, don't give up studying His Word and striving to crucify that 'old man' and put on the 'new man' each and every day. That's a vital part of truly 'walking in the Spirit' (Gal 5, Rom 8). The Tabernacle teaches us how to 'walk in the Spirit' by giving us a visual aid to learn from. We should still learn from it (Gal 3:24).

Exodus 40

8 And thou shalt set up the court round about, and hang up the hanging at the court gate.

After the Tabernacle itself was set up, all the items put into it, and the 'gate' (of hangings) put up to seal it shut, then the court walls had to be put up. This, again, teaches us that we have a duty to protect our heart and mind from corruption.

20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.

21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

Prov 4:20-23

The word 'keep' in verse 23 is #5341 and it means: *to guard*, as in to protect, maintain, obey, etc. God has given us free will so that means it is our responsibility to guard our heart. Moses warned Israel (and us) of this *many* times [**Take Heed and Keep It** <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/943>]. Consider just one place wherein he stresses the importance...

*Only **take heed** to thyself, and **keep** thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;*

Deut 4:9

The words 'take heed' and 'keep' are both a word we've looked at in this book of Exodus: #8104 shamar (shaw-mar'); a primitive root that means: *to hedge about* (as with thorns), i.e. *guard*; generally, *to protect, attend to*, etc. The very word describes what the walls of the Tabernacle and the court walls visually teach us: we have to learn how to put a spiritual wall up to guard our heart and mind from corruption. We must look inside our heart and see what our sins and weaknesses are and learn how, not only to kick out our sins, but also *how to keep them out*. Sometimes this means changing friends, habits and maybe even where you work or live. But, at the very least, it is a mental (spiritual) wall you must learn to put up. *Learn to think for yourself*. Study God's Word *for yourself* and learn to discern the information presented to you. Learn to control who you talk to, who you listen to and what you talk about...

A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself.

Prov 18:2

Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.

Prov 26:4

He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.

Prov 28:26

A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.

Prov 29:11

Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him.

Prov 29:20

James 2 warns us to use our tongue wisely, but it's just as important to learn to discern what and who you listen to. It's ok to listen but not good to believe it all. Use discernment with the help of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. Part of the foolishness of this world (Satan's spiritual weapons) are waged with thoughts and ideas given to us in many forms. Music, social media, news, politics, religion, education, economics, friends, family and so forth. We must be careful what and who we believe. When we study God's Word, we learn how to compare the information we hear to it, and (with the help of the Holy Spirit) can learn to discern what is truth verses fiction. A truth in God's Word always has two witnesses (Deut 19:15, Rev 11:3, Mth 18:16, Heb 12:1) which are found in the Old Testament and the New Testament. Further, Jesus also warned us to guard our heart...

*4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, **Take heed** that no man deceive you.*

5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.
Matt 24:4-5

*34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time **your hearts be overcharged** with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and **so that day come upon you unawares**.*
35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.
36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.
Luke 21:34-36

We cannot dismiss the warnings from the Bible (Old and New Testament) to guard our heart or else, we are indeed going to be deceived. And we'll be deceived by our own heart allowing us to accept sin. Many who are living when Satan is kicked out of heaven will be deceived into following him (Rev 12, 2 Thess 2) because they are not prepared for it and are not protecting their heart and mind against deception. And worshipping Satan is *not* the way to get near to our Heavenly Father. Do not forget what Jesus said...

*21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but **he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven**.*
22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?
*23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, **ye that work iniquity**.*
Matt 7:21-23

Jesus won't accept those who are working iniquity, even if they call themselves Christians. He warned us that it takes more than *claiming* to be a follower of Him to be accepted by Him...

24 Strive [75 struggle] to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.
25 When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are:
26 Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets.
27 But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.
28 There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.
Luke 13:24-28

As the parable of the ten virgins in Mth 25 also attests to, once Jesus Christ comes back, there is no longer any chance to become a part of His government (the Body of Christ). Sure, many will be 'saved' at the end of the Millennium but the chance to obtain the 'first resurrection' will have

passed and those who do not truly come near to God, through Jesus Christ, will find themselves rejected by Jesus when He returns (Rev 20). That's why Jesus (yea, all the Scriptures in the Bible) warn us so often to 'take heed' to ourselves (Heb 3:12) and work (struggle, as Jesus puts in it Lk 13:24) to kick our sin out (2 Tim 4:1). 1 Tim 4:1-2 warns that: *the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.* Paul further warns us...

*1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,***

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.
Heb 12:1-2

*22 **Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.***

23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

*25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, **as ye see the day approaching.***

*26 For **if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins.***

27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

Heb 10:22-27

So, as Paul said, let's continue to strive to put off our sins and *keep them off* by putting a wall of protection upon our heart and mind (through His Word and His Holy Spirit). And let us help each other too, for the Body of Christ is supposed to support itself, even if only in prayer (Eph 6:18, 1 Thess 1:7).

We'll pick this up in part 2...

AMEN.