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“Keep Thyself Pure”

(I Tim. 5:22)

Your personal salvation was not finished on the cross, since something also depends upon your act. You are asked to “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.” Salvation from sin is conditional: human power must cooperate with divine grace. “Keep thyself pure!” You must either be saved from sin, or not saved at all. A life of holiness leads to heaven, and a life of wilfully chosen, persistent sin leads to hell, and no power in the universe can alter this fact. Sin is the worst thing in the world, and is followed by the most terrible consequences both here and hereafter. From every point of view, sin is a dreadful thing, and it is dreadful to have willed it and committed it. Every time you sin you are working with the devil, because the Word of God says: “He that sinneth is of the devil.”

“Keep thyself pure,” and work with the Lord Jesus, who came to save you from your sins, and to destroy the works of the devil. It is a blessed experience to have the devil knocked out of your life.

“Keep thyself pure.” Do not give room for the devil. Sin begins in the heart. If the thoughts are pure, the life will be blameless. The indulgence of sinful thoughts and desires produces sinful action. Don’t permit your mind to be corrupted with impure thoughts.

All sin is abnormal. Don’t tell me that a sinner lives a normal life. Believe it or not, holiness is man’s normal state. Holiness does not make man queer or eccentric. If he is such it is the result of something else than holiness. Holiness makes him different, but it makes him normal. A normal Christian loves the Lord and hates sin. We are convinced that until man comes into a real experience of holiness he cannot live a normal Christian life.

“Keep Thyself Pure!”

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