



Deal Truly With the Soul

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Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart,” the human heart, with its conflicting emotions of joy and sorrow,—the wandering, wayward heart, which is the abode of so much impurity and deceit. He knows its motives, its very intents and purposes. Go to Him with your soul all stained as it is. Like the Psalmist, throw its chambers open to the All-seeing Eye, exclaiming, “Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” {PrT August 15, 1895, par. 1}

Many accept an intellectual religion, a form of godliness, when the heart is not cleansed. Let it be your prayer, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.” **Deal truly with your own soul. Be as earnest, as persistent, as you would be if your mortal life were at stake. This is a matter to be settled between God and your own soul,—settled for eternity.** A supposed hope, and nothing more, will prove your ruin. {PrT August 15, 1895, par. 2}

Study the Word of God prayerfully. That Word presents before you, in the law of God and the life of Christ, the great principles of holiness, without which “no man shall see the Lord.” Heb. xii. 14. It convinces of sin; it plainly reveals the way of salvation. Give heed to it, as the voice of God speaking to your soul. {PrT August 15, 1895, par. 3}

As you see the enormity of sin, as you see yourself as you really are, do not give up to despair. It was sinners that Christ came to save. We have not to reconcile God

to us, but—O wondrous love!—God in Christ is “reconciling the world unto Himself.” He is wooing by His tender love the hearts of His erring children. No earthly parent could be as patient with the faults and mistakes of his children as is God with those He seeks to save. No one could plead more tenderly with the transgressor. No human lips ever poured out more tender entreaties to the wanderer than does He. All His promises, His warnings, are but the breathing of unutterable love. {PrT August 15, 1895, par. 4}



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regard to two debtors. One owed his lord a small sum, and the other owed him a very large sum; but he forgave them both, and Christ asked Simon which debtor would love his lord most. Simon answered, “He to whom he forgave most.” We have been great sinners; but Christ died that we might be forgiven, and restored to harmony with Heaven. His righteousness alone could give us power to become children of God. Those to whom He has forgiven most will love Him most, and will stand nearest His throne to praise Him for His great love and infinite sacrifice. It is as we comprehend the love of God that we realise the sinfulness of sin. When we see the length of the chain that was let down for us, when we understand something of the infinite sacrifice that Christ has made in our behalf, the heart is melted into tenderness and contrition. {PrT August 15, 1895, par. 5}