GJMWW Notes 8/30/2022

Finding Yourself in Christ

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. -1 John 3:1 (KJV)*

- Think about what it means to become a child of God—a part of His family!
- Because we have the love of God toward us and in us toward others, people of the world won't know and accept us.
- People didn't love and accept Jesus. They crucified Him!

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. -1 John 3:2

- Right now, in your spirit, you are as much a child of God as you will ever be.
- We have little glimpses of what we will be, but we are children of God right now.
- If we could see God as He really is and get a revelation of His love, we would become like Him.

And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. -1 John 3:3

• The grace of God doesn't set you free to sin; it sets you free from sin.

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; — Titus 2:11-12

- When you really understand grace, it will change you into that same image.
- It will teach you to deny ungodliness and live a godly life.

My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. —1 John 3:18

• What he's saying here is let's not just say we love others; let's prove it by our actions.

And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. -1 John 3:19

- We have to assure our hearts. We don't automatically know God is pleased with us.
- We cannot go by and trust what we feel. We have to go by what the Word says.
- Love is not an emotion; it's an action.
- God loves you, and there's nothing you can do about it!
- You can't make Him love you more and you can't make Him love you less.
- You have to assure your heart of this and not go by how it feels.

For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. -1 John 3:20

• We condemn ourselves, but God is greater.

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. —Romans 8:1

- The word "no" in the Greek is an absolute negative—no, zip, zilch, nada!
- You can't make Him love you more, but there are things you can do to make you more receptive to His love—spend time in the Word, pray, etc.
- And you can do things to make you less receptive to His love—like hardening your heart through sin, etc.
- God never removes His love from you, and you must assure your heart of this.
- Your heart will condemn you, but God never will!
- If you feel unworthy, it's not God making you feel that way.

Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. -1 John 3:21

How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? —Hebrews 9:14

- You can accept what Jesus has done and purge your conscience of that condemnation.
- Stop condemning yourself!

My book *Who Told You You Were Naked?* is a great resource to help you understand where condemnation comes from and it's not from God!

^{*}All scriptures, unless otherwise noted, are taken from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.