

#2. *In On It For Real*

REVIEW:

- Loving GOD involves loving GOD'S project to save the world by redeeming many people and by building His church
- The gospel is "the power of God" by which God saves those who believe and it's sent out in two ways: by individual Christian and by individual churches
- Loving God's project means being one of those individual Christians and being a part of one of those individual churches

1. **Authentic love for God (and His project) comes from the heart**
(The innermost being, the essential you, being in on it "for real")

Matthew 23:25-28

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence.

"You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also.

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.

"So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Romans 5:5

...the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Romans 6:17-18

But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

2 Corinthians 4:6

For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

2. **The heart that authentically loves God (and His project) is always (in this life) under a double threat:**

FROM THE OUTSIDE...

- a) **It is surrounded by three opposing forces** (The world and the flesh and the devil)

THE WORLD

James 4:4

You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

THE FLESH

Romans 13:14

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.

1 Corinthians 9:27

...but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

THE DEVIL**1 Peter 5:8**

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

FROM THE INSIDE...

b) In itself it tends to cool off, to harden and to wander

Proverbs 4:23

Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life.

Psalms 119:33-40

Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, And I shall observe it to the end.
Give me understanding, that I may observe Your law And keep it with all my heart.
Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, For I delight in it.
Incline my heart to Your testimonies And not to dishonest gain.
Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity, And revive me in Your ways.
Establish Your word to Your servant, As that which produces reverence for You.
Turn away my reproach which I dread, For Your ordinances are good.
Behold, I long for Your precepts; Revive me through Your righteousness.

Ephesians 1:18

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints...

Colossians 3:12

So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience...

Hebrews 13:9

Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited.

3. **Authentically loving God (and His project) requires an intense degree of self-management**

The influence of the world / The desires of the flesh
The schemes of the devil / The wanderings of the heart

4. **The Lord has provided us with three resources that, working together, are sufficient to keep us authentically loving God:**

a) His Word

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

b) His Spirit

Ephesians 5:18-19

...be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord...

c) His church

1 Corinthians 12:11-13

But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.