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Sermon – Protect That Heart (Week 2 of Armor of God)

Scripture – Jeremiah 17:9-10, Mathew 6:33, Eph 6:14, 1 Cor 15:33-34,

Main Message – We must be ever vigilant to protect our heart from corruption by the world and the best way to do that is to seek His Righteousness

We have all known people that we admire, enjoy being around, and are what we would call, “a good egg.” They seem easy to be around, they have a wholesomeness and peace that makes us feel comfortable. We like them. They leave things better than the way they found them in the service to others. We consciously and unconsciously emulate them when we are around them.

We have all known people that are in our circle of acquaintances which we don't necessarily admire, trust or even enjoy being around and are what we might call, “a bad seed.” We aren't always comfortable, but life circumstances keep them in our social circle. They don't often leave things better than the way they found them unless it serves their selfish purpose. We consciously and unconsciously emulate them when we are around them.

These two basic examples demonstrate the incredible waywardness of the human heart. Realizing this incredible dilemma and our vulnerability is vital. Few can be in bad company *and* guard their own heart. Listen to **Jeremiah 17-9:10**. The minute you think you would never succumb is the time you're most likely to.

Near the end of Mathew 6, Jesus gave us a clue how to succeed in this life. All the things that we do, or consume our thoughts, or distract us from the most important things or to put aside endless worry and fear is this. **Read Mathew 6:33**. Yes seek first HIS KINGDOM and HIS Righteousness. To do that we need to guard our heart. To do that, we are told to put on the Breastplate of Righteousness, because behind that breastplate is our heart. First warning! Don't become self-righteous. This is when we dictate our sense of what's right and morality on others. This is playing God and the first of all sins. What Christ said is to seek our Father's righteousness. How do you do that? Well no single answer will suffice, but the word of God is filled with example after example of both the error of human thinking and the power of working on our drawing closer to Christ. Here's an easy one that that goes along with this message perfectly. **Read 1 Cor 15:33-34**.

The world situation is one that is quick to pollute any purity we may have in our heart. This goes beyond that casual acquaintance that drags us down. The television we watch, the other books we may read, the websites we may visit, the radio we listen too. Our ability to maintain a level of righteousness is under attack from every direction. We know the reason. Wickedness in all the high places of our world. It's everywhere.

There is another important quality of wearing a Breastplate. It is what a priest of God wears so that the individual is able to exercise Righteous Judgement. You are all called to be priests of God and to do well in this world you need this Breastplate just like Aaron wore. The priest breastplate was made in exacting detail and was part of the entire uniform that a high priest of God would wear.

Read Exodus 28:29

We must protect our heart from the things of this world. We need to strive for it. We must be vigilant so as to not become overwhelmed. This isn't a casual effort on our part, but a serious endeavor each and every day. It can be exhausting, but not to worry, God gave us a day to rest so we would have the strength to continue.

Amen

Read ~~Mathew~~ 10:1-9
ROMANS