

"Make It As Secure As You Know How"

by Larry Rouse

www.cvillechurch.com

Introduction: When something is really important to us we show it in several ways.

- A. The enemies of Christ were motivated to try to prevent the resurrection! **(Mt 27:65-66)**
 - 1. They considered that much was at stake, so they spared no effort. **(Mt 27:63-64)**
 - 2. This will always be the case when we see something as truly important.
- B. Do you notice different attitudes in your life towards things by their importance?
 - 1. Ex. As a runner I must have a certain quality of shoe. I will not compromise. However, if the subject is cooking utensils or recipe books, any will do!
 - 2. When something is **important**, I want quality. When it is **unimportant**, give me the cheapest that requires the least effort.
 - 3. Jesus has told us the only way to be His disciple is to make Him the focus of your life. **(Lk 14:26-27, 33)**

I. We must begin by making our hearts secure.

- A. Jesus knew that everything flows from the heart. **(Mt 12:34-37)**
 - 1. It will be those who have pure hearts that see God. **(Mt 5:8)**
 - 2. We need help that only God can give us. How do we find a pure heart?
- B. We must first be crushed by repentance. **(Jas 4:8-10)**
 - 1. God will put us through the fire to make us anew.
 - 2. A change of heart is a change of life! It takes a powerful act to bring true repentance. **(Acts 2:36-37)**
 - 3. When you repent you will do more than talk!
- C. If we do not, we will be religious but with hardened hearts. **(Heb 3:8, 15)**
 - 1. Please listen to God's instructions, start with the heart! **(Prov 4:4, 21-23)**
 - 2. Satan wishes to clutter and confuse your hearts so you will not turn to God. It is very easy to do this if you let him. **(2 Cor 4:4)**
- D. God has given instructions about how to secure our hearts. Is this important to us?
 - 1. How often do you think about God's love and find patience there? **(2 Thess 3:5)**
 - 2. How often do you take your cares to the Lord and by faith truly find the burdens of your heart lifted? **(Phil 4:6-7)**
 - 3. Do you have sincere love for other Christians? **(1 Thess 3:12-13)**
 - 4. Are you really protecting your heart? Is it important to you?

II. We must have a secure view of the one true God.

- A. When we know God, we will cleanse our hearts and draw near to Him. **(Prov 3:3-7)**
 - 1. When I see God my heart should be filled with reverence.
 - 2. My concern is for what He sees rather than what men think. **(1 Thess 2:4; Gal 1:10)**
- B. In this fear we find comfort and motivation to make first things first!
 - 1. This is not the fear of the legalist, the man who tries to obligate God to him by his own efforts. This only brings torment. **(1 Jn 4:18-19)**

2. When a man truly fears God, you will see it by how he handles His word.
(Lk 6:46, Heb 8:10-11)
3. Do you know God and fear Him? (Prov 1:7)

III. Tests for what is really important to us.

A. Our casual approach to sin. (Heb 1:9; 1 Cor 6:18)

1. What is your reaction when someone approaches you with concern about your spiritual condition?
2. Too often we show our priorities by ignoring these concerns, why? It is not important to us!

B. Our casual approach to Bible study. (1 Thess 2:13)

1. When we know the source of this word we will show it!
2. What kind of hearer are you? Often I hear of people moved by a sermon or Bible study that walk away and do nothing! Why? It did not stay important to them! (Jas 1:22)
3. Why is the religious world unconcerned about closely following God's word?

"Consider a survey by Redbook magazine in August of 1961. Of the ministers in training, 56 percent rejected the virgin birth of Jesus Christ, 71 percent rejected that there was life after death. 54 percent rejected the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. 98 percent rejected that there would be a personal return of Jesus Christ."

C. Our casual approach to God. (Col 3:17)

1. I see men in "churches of Christ" that claim we need a new way of looking at the Bible. Why? In my opinion they have changed their view of God.
2. Some are content with stirring up clouds of dust and confusion and concluding that we may then do what we wish. The man who fears God will only do what he knows is clearly found approved in God.

"Samuel Johnson noted that shame arises from the fear of men but conscience, from the fear of God."

D. Our casual approach to raising our children. (Eph 6:4)

1. The greatest problem we face in the church are parents who think they know more than God! Anger is often expressed to those who try to show them God's way.
2. We must first show the way of faith by living by faith.

E. Our casual approach to our salvation. (2 Cor 6:1-2)

1. Some refuse to test their own conversion. Have you been baptized into Christ? (Acts 2:38)
2. Why do some get angry when it is suggested that their denominational baptism may not be acceptable to God?
3. What does a person who puts God first do?
4. Even if they need time for further study, they will be diligently pursuing it!
5. What would you think of a doctor that said: "You might have cancer, but we will not worry about it?" We want certainty here. Why not with God?

Conclusion: What kind of confidence and assurance do you have? (2 Pt 1:10)

- A. You will never regret the time and effort spent to build your life confidently upon the

Lord.

B. When one is truly converted, he will pursue the Lord with joy. (**Heb 10:22-25**)