

## **IS THY HEART RIGHT WITH GOD?**

Jesus says, “true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth” (John 4:23). God desires worship that is in accordance with His Will and that is derived from and consists of man’s understanding and adherence. Since true worship consists of more than just acts, our hearts must be right with God in order for our worship to be acceptable to Him. In order for our lives, in general, to be acceptable sacrifices to God (Rom. 12:1), our hearts must be right as well. “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh” (Luke 6:45).

Judas was one of Jesus’ chosen disciples (Mat. 10:4) and, at first, served Jesus faithfully. In order for Jesus to have considered Judas worthy to serve as one of the original twelve, Judas’ heart must have been right with God. Unfortunately, near the end of Jesus’ physical life, Judas’ heart followed another god – “he was a thief” (John 12:6). Stealing stems from covetousness “which is idolatry” (Col. 3:5). Judas had been numbered among the faithful (Acts 1:17), but after he betrayed the Son of God, “he saw that he was condemned” (Mat. 27:3). Judas is proof that an individual can fall from grace (Acts 1:25; cf. Gal. 5:4). Jesus refers to Judas as a “son of perdition” (John 17:12). Perdition means ruin and destruction. Satan is given the name of Abaddon, which means destroyer (Rev. 9:11). Therefore, Jesus, the one who knows the hearts of men, saw that Judas had become a son of Satan. “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it” (John 8:44). Though Judas was still following after Jesus as one of the disciples and was serving as the treasurer (John 13:29), his heart was not right with God.

As the Apostles were beginning their mission to teach the Gospel around the known world, the obedient of God made sure that the Apostles had what they needed. “Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need” (Acts 4:34-35). Those who made provisions for these great men had their heart right with God. “But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet” (Acts 5:1-2). These two did a good work by selling something of their own and by giving it to the Apostles. However, for whatever reason, perhaps to be seen of men and/or greed, they lied about the price of the possession and kept some of the money for themselves. Peter told Ananias that Satan had filled his heart (Acts 5:3). Peter told Sapphira that she had conspired (*in her heart, B.G.*) to tempt the Spirit of God (Acts 5:9). Though they had sold possessions like those written about in Acts 4, Ananias and Sapphira’s hearts were not right with God.

Consider the song, “Is Thy Heart Right With God.”

Verse 1            “Have thine affections been nailed to the cross?”  
If they haven’t, you need to “mortify the deeds of the body” so that ye might live

(Rom. 8:13).

- Verse 2      “Hast thou dominion o’er self and o’er sin?”  
If you do not, you need to take control and bring the body “into subjection” (1 Cor. 9:27).
- Verse 3      “Are all thy powers under Jesus’ control?”  
If you have not submitted to the authority of Christ (Mat. 28:18) and are not being obedient to His Word (John 12:48), you do not have Christ abiding in your soul (2 John 9).

Let us always ask ourselves the question, “Is my heart right with God?.” No matter how many good works we may do, our actions are not pleasing to God unless our hearts are right as well. God has commanded works of obedience (Jam. 2:24), but our works must be done with the right heart, mind, and attitude. “The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with *all thy heart*, and with *all thy soul*, and with *all thy mind*, and with *all thy strength*: this is the first commandment” (Mark 12:29-30, emphasis B.G.).

- *Brad Green*