



Touchstones of the Heart

Who Is Your God?

Moses had just received instructions to go to Pharaoh and speak the word of God to him concerning the deliverance of the children of Israel. Shortly after setting out on his journey though, he was stopped by God who nearly takes his life. The Bible says it this way, *“At a lodging place on the way, the Lord met Moses and was about to kill him.”* (Exodus 4:24) Why would God want to kill His prophet and the intended deliverer of His people? Because he had failed to circumcise his son. As I read this passage I was struck by what looks like a lack of God's grace in this situation. The commentary in my Bible put it this way, *“Moses had neglected to perform the covenant sign of circumcision in the case of his only son. This was seen as a clear sign of disobedience on the part of Moses and his wife. Evidently God afflicted Moses with a potentially fatal illness until he had his son circumcised. This demonstrates that God's election of an individual continues only as long as he or she remains obedient.”* (Life in the Spirit Study Bible) I am no scholar, but what this commentary says to me is, grace remains in effect only as long as you are obedient, but God removes it as soon as you are disobedient. I don't see it that way though.

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Ministry Updates

On the 1st of April we set out on the next chapter in the journey of Rescued Heart Ministries as we left South Carolina and moved to the mountains of Western North Carolina. As we stepped out on that day God gave this ministry a large financial blessing, confirming for us that we are walking in the right direction. I have to admit that walking and living by faith is not easy, but I am convinced that it is the only way to please God. As the Bible says, *“And without faith it is impossible to please God...”* (Heb 11:6a) A.W. Tozer put it this way in the book 'The Pursuit of

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Tidbits for Living: The Battle Field For Your Heart



Battle Field For The Heart
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I want to continue on the theme of walking in complete faith and obedience to God here. First I must warn you that this is a point that can easily be taken wrong and lead a person to embark on a path of legalism. In the opening article I made an argument for grace over judgment in the case of Moses' and Zipporah's failure to circumcise their son. God acted out of grace and love when he nearly killed Moses for his failure. In the same way God's love and grace were what required Abraham to nearly kill Isaac on Mt. Moriah. God will strip away every affection and thing that puts itself before Him in your life if you will but yield to Him. There have been times in my life when I preached this from the pulpit and with authority told people to do things that I was not willing to do myself. I didn't realize it at the time, but I had not experienced the things that I preached. I only knew of them second hand. I read of others both in the bible and

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“Not Even Solomon”
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Newsletter Spotlight

Please do not misunderstand me. I am not advocating a return of dominating men lording over their wives and children. What I am saying is this; God has placed the position of authority and spiritual headship in men. Men are to speak life into their families, not be silent and passive.



Touchstones of the Heart

Who Is Your God (Continued)

Instead of getting into a debate over eternal security, I would rather discuss what I see as the real problem behind Moses' disobedience. Moses falls into the same trap as Adam and one that many men continue to fall into today. *"You shall have no other gods before me."* (Exodus 20:3) Moses was later to witness the finger of God write these words on tablets of stone on Mount Sinai, something no doubt he already knew. Yet due to his wife's objections to the practice of circumcision (she shows her disgust for it in vs. 25) he relinquishes his position of authority and allows her to make the decision. His silence and passivity cause him to bow down at the alter of his wife, nearly costing him his life. I find it interesting that in the end it is Zipporah who has to perform the act of circumcision. Please do not misunderstand me. I am not advocating a return of dominating men lording over their wives and children. What I am saying is this; God has placed the position of authority and spiritual headship in men. Men are to speak life into their families, not be silent and passive. Men who are silent and passive, especially out of fear of their wives (or the women in their lives), are worshipping them instead of God. (I will note here that this is not a position women want to be in, but are often forced into by men's passivity). Moses had to intervene in the life of his son, thereby removing Zipporah from a place of authority to submission. God's reaction to their disobedience is a mark of His grace at the deepest level. Moses could not be effective for God until she was removed as the object of his devotion and replaced by Him. God must be number one in our lives, He will not tolerate any other gods before him. As believers we have been bought at a great price and He desires to have full Lordship over us. Not as a master over slaves, but as a father who loves his children or as a lover who is jealous for His bride. When we understand this, we will then be effective for Him and His kingdom.

Ministry Updates (Continued)

God', *"It will require a determined heart and more than a little courage to wrench ourselves loose from the grip of our times and return to biblical ways. But it can be done."* There is a malady of heart in our churches today in which people of faith have adopted the ways of the culture and live for themselves instead of for God. I do not mean this in a critical way, I only want to remind everyone that we belong to God and must be obedient to His leading not the other way around. The purpose of this ministry is to help believers reconnect with God and discover their true heart as well as help them find the abundant life that Jesus promised. I am convinced that the abundant life is found in disconnecting from the ways of this world and reconnecting with the source of life in this world! Men, won't you join us at our Warrior Training Boot Camp 3-6 May, 2007 to learn how to do this? See www.rescuedheart.com for details and registration.

Tidbits for Living: The Battle Field For Your Heart (Continued)

outside of it who had lived fully consecrated lives and was convinced everyone should live that way. Yet I didn't understand how to put it into practice in my own life, let alone how to tell someone else how to do it. I feel less qualified now than I did then to tell others how to do it. However, I do know this, when I started asking God for His kingdom and His righteousness and did my best to forget about "things", I found him doing stuff in my life I had not expected. He started stripping "things" away from me. Oh, it hurt and the enemy was right there to accuse and convince me that I needed more than God's kingdom and His righteousness. In the end though I have come to a much deeper appreciation for those who have given up everything to follow Him and am ready to take the next step toward that myself. Total surrender, total consecration and complete obedience is what I desire. How about you?

May I give one more small piece of advice? Don't do these things because you "ought to", but do them because you understand without them you will die on the battle field for your heart!