



The Difficult Part

Many, before entering the Lord's service, no doubt feel that once they have been baptized, become accustomed to attending worship periods regularly, and overcome some of their old habits, they will pretty well "have it made" in serving



the Lord. Doing these outward services, however, is the easy side of obeying Christ. The difficult side involves that which is within; it involves keeping the heart right.

It is easy to attend the worship periods, but it is difficult to worship, to rid the mind completely of worldly things, and to concentrate fully on the Lord. It is easy to sing, but it is difficult to meditate on the words, making the sentiment of the song one's own sentiment. It is easy to bow the head, but it is difficult to pray. It is easy to eat bread and drink fruit of the vine, but it is difficult to concentrate as fully as one should on the suffering of Christ. Sitting through a worship period is not in itself worship, for true worship must proceed from the heart. (Eph.5:19; Jn.4:24).

In moral realms, the difficult thing to do is to keep the heart pure.

It is relatively easy to refrain from killing, stealing, or committing adultery. After all, one is hindered in such matters by the laws of the land, social pressures, forbidding circumstances, fear of being caught, etc. It is difficult, however, to completely rid the mind of jealousy, selfishness, discontent, lust, hatred, bitterness, a spirit of revenge, etc. Anyone who has ever been

jealous of another knows the difficulty involved in cleansing the heart of this terrible sin. So it is with all the sins of the heart.

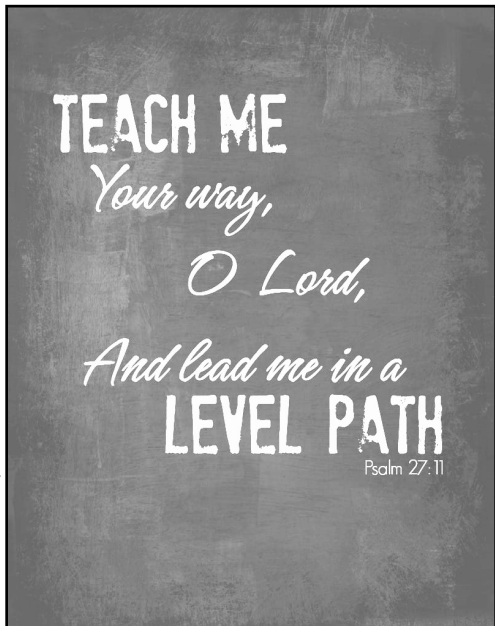
It is easy to develop a friendly way and gracious manner with others, but it is difficult to develop genuine love and concern for others within the heart. It is easy to give something to some charity drive, but it is difficult to develop real compassion for the poor. It is easy to say, "Forgive me, Lord," but it is difficult to repent.

The wise man said, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." (Proverbs 4:23). This is an essential part of serving the Lord...and the difficult part.

By Bill Hall

Make His Paths Straight

When John the Baptist was calling for the Jews to "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand," (Matt.3:1-3) Matthew explained that John was the one Isaiah had predicted in Isaiah 40 as "the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.'" So, John was alerting people that the KING of the kingdom of heaven was on His way, the people needed to be ready to welcome and receive Him, and there



should be no obstacles, impediments, or hindrances to all being prepared for the king and His heavenly kingdom. The blessings of that kingdom can only come to a prepared people. Unpre-



pared people will be passed over. So, it is crucial that all men everywhere “repent” and remove anything that may hinder or block you from coming in heart, soul, and mind to King Jesus. There must be a straight path from God’s heart to your heart.

There must be nothing more important to us than making sure there is an unhindered path from our heart to the King. No job is more important. No earthly goal, no material ambitions, no human relationships, nothing, is more important. If something is more important, then we have not repented and made His path to our heart a straight shot. God will not take second or last place in our interests and goals. He deserves nothing less than a straight path to our hearts. Has there been anything that you have allowed to stand in the way of a great relationship between you and the King and His kingdom? Repent, and make a straight path for your heart to receive the King, to welcome Him into your life. He has a “great salvation” opportunity for all those who obey Him (Heb.5:9; 2:1; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38). Clear out all the useless debris that has stood in the way. The King and His kingdom is your greatest opportunity in this world and in the world to come! Give Him a straight shot to your heart!

By Terry W. Benton

Good Reminders

Friendship is God’s special way of loving us through someone else!

Don’t count years make years count!

Books inform but only the Bible transforms!

Anger is the wind that blows out the lamp of the mind!



GLAD TIDINGS

Sermon Notes: _____ *Speaker:* _____

Topic: _____

Order of Worship October 31, 2021

Song Leader—AM	Matthew Frazier
Song Leader—PM	Michael Young
Lord's Table	Gary Barber
Sermon—AM—Devin Barber	Sermon—PM—Devin Barber

Continue prayers for those on our list, and for the free course of the gospel.

1 John 5:14

Editor: Steve Frazier

Marietta church of Christ

8150 Driggers St.

Jacksonville, FL 32220

Meeting times of the church

Sunday 09:00 am Bible Classes 10:00 am Worship 05:00 pm Evening Worship

Wednesday 7:00 pm Bible classes

Evangelist: Devin Barber

Phone: 904-210-5036

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Hebrews 10:24-25