

Keep Your Heart With All Diligence

"Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23).

You have probably heard the saying concerning computers, "Input equals output." Or, the more popular term, "Garbage in, garbage out." That does not apply to just computers, but also to human beings. If what we feed in is bad, we cannot expect the results to be good.

Today we are constantly bombarded with messages on every side. Everyone wants to influence us to do something, usually to buy their product or service. Distraction is a major problem we face. Because of the information overload with which we must deal, it is easy to be distracted from what is most important, God's Word. It is not so much that the information we are feeding into our hearts and minds is necessarily bad, just that it can easily crowd out what is most important from our lives.

"My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh" (Proverbs 4:2-22).

God's Word is not just another message, but something that has life in it. Just because your senses are not aware of the life emanating from God's Word is no proof. Nuclear radiation is also unseen and unfelt but, as we know, can quickly kill you. God's Word is the opposite—it radiates life.

"For the word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

God is our Source of existence. In His Word there is a deposit of life from Him that we require to live and operate optimally. That means that without a constant feeding on the Word of God, you are living below what God intended for you.

Maintain the attitude that you will keep your heart with all diligence. You will feed in the Word of God, which gives life.

- Don Readhimer, West Side church of Christ, Muskogee, OK (via *Bulletin Digest*) -



Purer in heart, O God, help me to be; may I devote my life wholly to Thee;
 Watch Thou my wayward feet, guide me with counsel sweet.
 Purer in heart, O God, help me to be; teach me to do Thy will most lovingly;
 Be Thou my Friend and Guide, let me with Thee abide.
 Purer in heart, O God, help me to be; that I Thy holy face one day may see;
 Keep me from secret sin, reign thou my soul within;
 Purer in heart, O God, help me to be.

- Fannie E. C. Davison, 1877 -

Our only hope here below is help from God above.

News & Notes

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES: *Sunday: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m. Wednesday: Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.*

FACE COVERINGS REQUIRED: By request of our Elders, for **EVERYONE** in **ALL** of our assemblies regardless of where seated.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Each **Tuesday** at **7:00 p.m.**

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next **Saturday, March 5th, 8:00 a.m.** at EJ's in Chester.

PANTRY: Oatmeal.

PICTURE GALLERY OF PAST MEMBERS: Submit pictures (black and white or color) to David Malcomson.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS: **Lori Rowand** (John Sprout's niece), Stage 4 lung cancer. Her address: 305 Bentley Ave., Newell, WV 26050.

SICK & SHUT-IN: **St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Boardman:** Don Steel in ICU (Jason Akers' uncle). **At Home:** Tim Adkins, Mike West, Barbara DeLong, David McCoy, Marlene Evans, Russell Martin, Claudette Miller, Jim & Linda Hall (members at Southern Hills).

Faithfulness in Doctrine, Worship and Life

Ronald D. Reeves

The ideal congregation maintains faithfulness in doctrine, worship and life. John commented forcefully upon these. Regarding doctrine, he said, "Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God..." (2 John 1:9). Regarding worship, he penned, "God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and truth" (John 4:24). Regarding life, he transcribed, "...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Revelation 2:10). Thus, we see that the people of God must maintain faithfulness in these matters. To do otherwise constitutes a course that robs us of our present spiritual security and our future celestial inheritance. May we always have the courage to seek out the Lord's will in all matters wherein He has spoken, as well as to demonstrate the fortitude to live and teach accordingly. Motivation to this end is realized in the observation that doctrine communicates divine principles of truth, while worship regulates our personal relationship with deity, and our course of life will determine our eternal destiny. Lives guided by these observations and principles truly have the hope promised to mankind in the Word of our gracious God.

- via *Gospel Gazette* Online -

I do not rest on shifting sand,
 Or fear the storm that rages;
 For calm and surge, I stand secure
 Upon the Rock of Ages.

- Author Unknown -