

Chapter 3: The quest for identity continues...

Chapter 3: Knowing Yourself

Verse for pondering: “*Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?*”⁷ *If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.*” (Genesis 4:6-7).

The Author Asserts:

- He struggled with the Christian life.
- The struggle was not serious... not “life and death”
- His life was not “happy” yet it was not “miserable” (Stuck in a crack).
- As a Pastor he was “embarrassed” by the title “Reverend” because he didn’t feel he deserved it.
- He didn’t have such an exciting sin/conversion story as did the guy in *The Cross and the Switchblade*
- He felt good enough to be a “regular Church member but not a Pastor”.
- ➔ **Can we relate with a weak struggle with the Christian Life?**
- ➔ **What does it mean to be “stuck in a crack”? (not sinking or rising?)**
- ➔ **Do we ever feel embarrassed that we don’t have as exciting story of “personal conversion” than others?**
- ➔ **What’s the difference between Pastor and Parishioner when it comes to realizing our sin or being blessed by God’s grace? (See: Romans 3:23)**

Lord, show me my heart: (Psalm 139:23)

- Author asserted that he needed to have a better understanding of sin in order to continue in his Christian growth.
- As informally as he had already been living his Christian life, he asked God to “Show me my heart.”
 - ✓ **Questions: Whether we are close to St. Valentine’s Day or not, what do you expect to see when you look at your heart?**
 - ✓ **Did God answer Rev. Matzat’s prayer?**
 - ✓ **What did he see? (Bottom p. 41)**
 - ✓ **Do you find that the most common family situations can really show us our heart as well? (ex: feeding the baby, taking the kids to soccer, getting a meal prepared on time, etc...)**
 - ✓ **How does this relate to King David’s prayer in Psalm 139?**

Sin and Grace... Sin and Grace... Sin and Grace...

- ✓ **Writer asserts:** People who have progressed in their relationship with the Lord have a profound sense of sin and failure along with a deep gratitude because of what Jesus has done for them.
 - ✓ **Question: Is this true? Why? Why not?**
 - ✓ **Why would such notable theologians (as mentioned in the book) share this in common?**
 - ✓ **Why would this deeper understanding make secular psychology seem “shallow”?**

Avoiding self knowledge:

- ✓ What questions should we ask to come to a greater self knowledge?
- ✓ Why should we ask them?
- ✓ Which directions do Biblical theology and secular psychology lead a person as each one seeks to answer the question of “self”? Why?

(Discussion)