

# THE PREREQUISITES OF A PERSONAL WORKER

## Psa. 51: 10 -13

Sermon by Donald Townsley

### INTRODUCTION

1. Christianity is a personal matter -- no one can serve God for me.
2. The personal work with which we wish to deal with in this lesson has to do with soul winning.
3. Personally going out and talking to people about Christ and His plan of salvation.
4. This is the prime mission of God's people.
5. To effectively accomplish any work, one must be properly prepared.
6. There are some prerequisites required of the effective soul winner.
7. I believe our text reveals what is required of one before he can effectively "*teach transgressors of thy ways*".

### I. "CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART"

1. Let us first determine what is meant by the word "HEART".
  - (1) Many think the physical heart is under consideration when the word "heart" is found in the Word of God.
  - (2) The physical heart is a blood pump -- man nor God want it changed.
2. The heart that needs changing is the spiritual heart -- the mind of man.
3. Let us see what the Bible says this heart does:
  - (1) It thinks -- Prov. 23:7; Gen. 6:5
  - (2) Understands -- Matt. 13:15
  - (3) It can be pricked -- Acts 2:37
  - (4) It reasons -- Mark 2:8
  - (5) It desires -- Rom. 10:1
  - (6) It believes -- Rom. 10:10
  - (7) It loves -- Mark 12:30
  - (8) It purposes -- 2 Cor. 9:7
4. We can see the heart that is to be changed:
  - (1) Thinks
  - (2) Understands
  - (3) Reasons
  - (4) Desires
  - (5) Believes
    1. These are all actions of the mind of man.
    2. David, in our text, wanted a clean (pure) mind.
5. A person with a dirty, evil mind cannot effectively teach transgressors of God's way.
6. God is to "create" this clean heart.
  - (1) How is He to do this?
  - (2) Is it by a miracle?
  - (3) NO -- God "*purifies the heart by faith*" -- Acts 15:9.
7. This faith comes by the Word of God -- Rom. 10:17.
  - (1) It is faith that works -- Gal. 5:6; James 2:24.

8. When our faith works it causes us to repent and to be baptized -- Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:27.
  - (1) We are new creatures -- 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:10.
9. One must keep his heart clean -- Acts 20:28; I Cor. 9: 27; I Tim. 4:16.

## II. DAVID ASKS FOR A "*RIGHT SPIRIT*"

1. He wanted to have the right attitude of heart.
2. Paul exhorted the brethren to control their thinking -- 2 Cor. 10:3 - 5.
3. We must have the mind of Christ -- Phil. 2:5.
4. The only way we can have the mind of Christ is to be governed and guided by the Word of God.

## III. "*CAST ME NOT AWAY FROM THY PRESENCE*"

1. David realized that God must be with Him.
2. God must be with us in our work today if we hope to succeed.
3. How can we be assured of God's presence with us?
  - (1) THE ANSWER -- 2 John 9; I John 1:7; James 4:8; John 6:37
  - (2) When God departs from us -- 2 John 9; I Cor. 4:6
  - (3) We must do all things by His authority -- Col. 3:17

## IV. "*RESTORE UNTO ME THE JOY OF THY SALVATION*"

1. We usually engage in those things from which we derive joy.
  - (1) No one has to twist our arm much to get us to do that which we enjoy.
2. The reason why it is so difficult to get some church members to be faithful is that they get no joy out of serving the Lord.
  - (1) Some people have just enough religion to be miserable.
  - (2) Their conscience hurts them if they don't serve the Lord, and they get no joy out of it if they do serve Him.
3. Paul said, "*rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say rejoice*" -- Phil. 4:4
4. The elders and preacher will not have to beg people to serve the Lord if they get joy out of it.
5. Without this joy no one can be an effective personal worker.

## V. "*THEN WILL I TEACH TRANSGRESSORS THY WAYS*"

1. Only the person who is a "new creature" in Christ and rejoices in service to God will teach transgressors of God's way.
2. "*Go teach*" is the command of our Lord -- Matt. 28:19.
3. We must develop into teacher -- Heb. 5: 12 - 14.
4. The church was brought into existence through the medium of teaching, and the purity and stability of the church depends on teaching.
5. "*Teach transgressors of thy ways*"
  - (1) We must not teach our ways or opinions -- Matt. 15:9.
6. When a faithful servant of the Lord teaches God's Word to transgressors, sinners will be converted -- James 5:20.