

SPIRITUAL TREATMENT

THE RULES OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

"...the truth is in Jesus ... be renewed in the spirit of your mind..."

~ Ephesians 4:21,23

1. Treatment and Truth

- a. Illnesses get treated, but there is not medical treatment for sin – it is spiritual.
- b. Sin is a spiritual problem (a problem rooted in the inner man – soul/mind not body)
- c. Everyone seeks 'therapy' of the mind some way (counselors, music, pundits, podcasts)
- d. All sin is selfish, deceptive, corrupting the soul = our mind is not right. 2 Tim 3:8
- e. 'Treatment' requires Truth/Jesus Christ to make our minds right – Eph 4:17-19, 20-24
- f. There are spiritual rules, a spiritual 'science', that leads to this renewal - Col 1:11-9

2. Humility

- a. A Biblical rule "God gives grace to the humble" - James 4:6,10, 2 Chron 7:14
- b. Paul teaches us to have the mind of Christ (humility of mind) - Phi 2:5-8, Col 3:12
- c. The world will go on if we die. Our sins hurt people. The wages of sin is death.
- d. Risks for suicide: feeling disconnected, I'm a burden, life doesn't matter ← true of all
- e. These truths lead to death, so men refuse humility, blame everything else, not my fault
- f. Suicide is sinful. It is also the mind reacting to human reality without God.
- g. The first feeling in God's presence = humility. Isa 6:5, Dan 10:6-8, Luke 5:8, Rev 1:17
- h. Believe the truth, we all are humbled by God – either by wrath or Christ (the Holy One)
- i. Humility is acknowledging insufficiency, receiving a gift, trusting God.
- j. Life is meaningful because of Him, not because of us, our feelings, desires.

3. Guilt

- a. Removing all guilt is a goal of godless therapy. God wants us to face the truth.
- b. Jesus preached to the guilty and he let them know it - Mark 7:6, Matt 12:34
- c. Why did God give the law? It was not because he thought we would keep it.
- d. *"that... all the world may become guilty before God"* - Rom 3:19
- e. Guilt is not an abusive tool of religion; guilt is only harmful to sin in us. Rom 7:16-17
- f. We cannot be accepted "just as we are", we must be saved/changed/renewed.
- g. Guilt precedes restoration, reconciliation, renewal – Lev 6:4, Rom 3:23-24, Gal 3:24
- h. Christ was made sin for us, that we might be made right – 2 Cor 5:21

4. Repentance

- a. *"God is not punishing sin,"* said the unrepentant corrupted mind – Rom 2:4-5
- b. The painful changing of your mind due to grief/sorrow of something you did/said.
- c. Repentance requires recognizing you were wrong. ← This destroys selfishness/pride.
- d. Paul rejoices in causing the Corinthians to repent - 2 Cor 7:8-11
- e. The Lord wants all men to come to repentance today – 2 Pet 3:9, 15-16
- f. Service to the Lord and toward others is instruction to repentance – 2 Tim 2:25-26

5. Grace

- a. The gracious mind → Titus 3:1-2
- b. Our past selfish mind → Titus 3:3-4, *"but after that..."*
- c. *"Not by works"* - Faith vs. works, it is freely received.
- d. *"works of righteousness"* – Good works that we were made to do – Col 1:10, Eph 2:10
- e. *"which we have done"* - Destroys any claim to selfishness in salvation/improvement
- f. Grace kills sin. Grace kills selfishness. Grace brings salvation – Rom 6:6-11, Eph 2:8-9
- g. Jesus Christ our Saviour supplies this abundantly to us – Titus 3:6-7
- h. Our selfishness needs crucified. Christ provided the proper treatment.