

Hearts of Love

Tom & Debbie Tillman "to touch the world for Jesus Christ"

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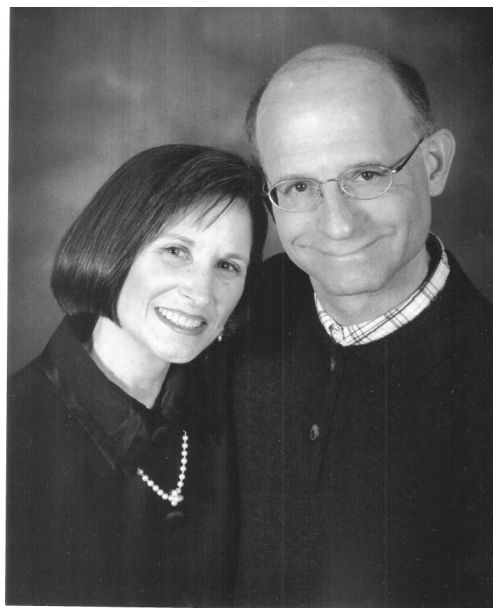
Hearts of Love is a non-profit ministry, dedicated to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ whenever and wherever we find open doors. Our first priority is to glorify God and lead whomever possible to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Please pray for us faithfully. We need your prayer, and we appreciate it more than we could ever say. Please consider us an extension of your ministry in this world, and support us with your prayer as such.

***May God richly
bless you!***

Tom & Debbie

Free from the Law

We have two callers to our Radio Ministry who always come on to try to prove to us that Christians are still to keep the Laws of Moses. They don't come right out and say that we have to keep the Law to be saved but they continually harp on the necessity of New Testament (New Covenant) believers in the Lord Jesus Christ to be under the Law as they were during the Old Testament (Old Covenant). They completely discount all of the N.T. Scripture that indisputably teaches us that the Old Covenant was made with Israel, that it was always meant to be temporary, that it was to point to the coming Messiah Who would inaugurate the New Covenant with His life, death and resurrection and that it would no longer be in effect after He accomplished His work of redemption, inaugurating the promised New Covenant. In Hebrews 8, we read, quoting Jeremiah, *'Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel...this is the covenant that I will make with (them) after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their minds and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people... For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.'*... In that He says, *"A new covenant,"* He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.' They continually blast out verses that seem to say that we are still under the Law, such as, *'Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.'* 1 John 2:3 (they seem to contradict) Since we know that Scripture does not lie and that it all supports itself, then their understanding of one of those types of verses



*He has committed to
us the word of
Reconciliation.
Therefore, we are
Ambassadors for Christ.
2 Corinthians 5:19,20*

must be incorrect.

When we read all of John's first letter, we recognize that it contains many contrasts: light vs darkness, love of the World vs love of God, the Spirit of God vs the spirit of antichrist, children of God vs children of the devil. Basically it is the difference between those born again and those who are not and how we can tell the difference. He is writing to help us to know, with assurance the reality and validity of our saving Faith... that we know beyond doubt that we are, in fact, truly saved and on our way to Heaven.

Faith comes from reading or hearing God's Word... all of His Word... from Genesis to Revelation. His Word tells us that God is Holy and Righteous, without sin, without any darkness at all. Because He is Holy, He will not have any fellowship with anything or anyone unholy. As we read of His Holiness, the Holy Spirit pricks our hearts and we understand our own complete unholiness, our utter sinfulness and hopelessness. We read and understand that our destination is eternal damnation in Hell.

But His Word offers hope; 'For God so loved the World, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him, should not perish but have everlasting life.' John 3:16

His Word tells us that we can be forgiven and have eternal life and ***that we can have full assurance of our salvation.***

Some, like these callers, try to say or imply that we can only be saved if we are keeping the Law, abiding by the 10 Commandments. If that were true, then we could never really have full assurance of our salvation because all of us sin; none of us are without sin. But unfortunately, they have it completely backwards and it is a subtle distinction.

Paul never teaches that salvation is in any way contingent upon keeping any law whatsoever. He explains that keeping the Law is not what saves us or keeps us saved. In fact, he, along with the writer of Hebrews tell us that Jesus Christ ***fulfilled the Law for us*** and that the Old Covenant which God had made with Israel, ***was done away with when He offered the New Covenant*** to Israel, and Gentiles, which was inaugurated by the Lord Jesus Christ, in His blood and by His life, death and resurrection.

Jesus said that He had come to fulfill the Law, that He had come, as a human, our kinsman redeemer, to do God's will by keeping all the Law,

completely, having never sinned.

Back to God's Word: after its having shown us the Holiness of God and our utter sinfulness, it tells us that Jesus Christ took our punishment upon Himself and that if we will trust in Him, that not only will His payment of our sin be accounted to us as completely paid, but also, that His sinless, completely lawful life will also be accounted to us as absolute righteousness in God's sight.

That means, when we come to Him in faith, not only will we never be touched by spiritual death or punishment, we will also never again be touched by the Law; the requirements of the Law and any Judgment in regard to the Law was all met and paid by Jesus Christ on our behalf.

Then why, they ask, does John write, 'Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.' 1 John 2:3 Here is that subtle distinction: Look closely at what John actually said. Did John say, this is how we know Him? Did he say, this is how we are saved? No! He said, this is how **we know that** we know Him. Do we see the distinction? This is how we can have assurance of our salvation: that we do keep the Law, or rather, we have a desire to keep the Law which has been written on our hearts and we know that if we do sin, He is faithful to forgive us and always see us as righteous. Keeping any commandments has ***nothing to do with getting saved or staying saved***: it has everything to do with our assurance that we are saved, that we do, in fact, know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We are saved by only one thing... no law, no commandment, only by believing and trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work of His entire perfectly lawful Earthly life, His sacrificial vicarious death and His miraculous, victorious resurrection. All three are accounted to us when we come to Him in faith. His having completely fulfilled the Law is accounted to us, His having taken the full punishment in payment for all our sin is accounted to us and His miraculous, victorious resurrection is accounted to us. We are, by faith, completely righteous regarding the Law, we are completely free from any punishment and we are completely

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miraculously new as we have been raised with Him to new, eternal life.

When Paul wrote, 'if anyone *is* in Christ, he is a new creation; old things (*also the Old Covenant*) have passed away; behold, all things (*also the New Covenant*) have become new.' 1 Cor 5:17, he was further building upon his teaching that the Old Covenant had been fulfilled and replaced.

So, back to John, one of his main points in his first letter is to give us full assurance of salvation, how we can know for sure.

How can we know, without doubt, that we are in fact, saved children of God? Two things especially he tells us in John's little letters: first, that we love God and have a desire to walk in the light, as He is in the light, that we recognize that He has, by His Holy Spirit, put in us an innate knowledge of His will and a miraculous desire to walk in His will which is the proof that He has written His will on our hearts. That is a main point of the New Covenant: He has written His laws on our hearts. If we recognize that we don't really want to walk in the light, it is an indication to us that perhaps we are not really born again, even though we might have said a prayer or walked an aisle or accomplished some formula.

Paul makes very clear that we are no longer under the Law; the Law is no longer hanging over our heads as a curse ready to fall on us for destruction but

rather, the Law is now in us, written on

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our miraculously recreated hearts.

Now we know we are born again because our hearts tell us to do what is right and to not do what is wrong. But even when we do sin, John tells us that when we come back into agreement with God, confessing that the thing is sin, He will always forgive us with never any punishment because Jesus Christ already took our punishment for that sin and for every other sin.

The heart that is not born again knows that judgment and punishment are coming, and it fearfully awaits. The born again heart knows that no judgment or punishment is coming and it lives in hopeful expectation of the complete fulfillment of its salvation at the Rapture. Also, see: 'Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.' ³ **And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself**, just as He is pure. 1 John 3:2

It is our hope and assurance of His soon return that causes us **to want to** 'walk

worthy of our calling,' in all things.

The second thing John tells us is proof of our salvation, that will assure us and prove to others that we are born again is that we have a miraculous, unnatural love for other true believers. Wherever we go, no matter if people are black, brown, white, yellow, red or anything else, when we meet a true child of God, there is, in us, a love for them that is beyond understanding or explanation... just like our desire to walk in the light, to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which we've been called. This is in stark contrast to the fact that many, in the World, have an unnatural, unexplainable hatred for the children of God and for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. They want to kill us. They are, as John says, children of the devil. By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

1 John 3:10

When we study God's Word in Its entirety, His Holy Spirit will lead us into all Truth. We are saved **only** by God's grace through our faith in Jesus Christ's finished work.

You can touch the World for Jesus Christ... Please partner with us in these last days.
The Harvest is Great, but the laborers are few. Matt 9:38



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