

November 21, 2020

THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

WHERE THE LORD LOOKS

When the prophet Samuel was told to anoint a king for Israel from one of the sons of Jesse, Samuel, looking at Eliab said, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before Him. But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:6-7). We do often judge others by their outward appearance. If one is well dressed, lives in a big home and drives the latest luxury vehicle, we may conclude that person is wealthy. However, it may simply be the case that he is deeply in debt.

It is true that what is on the inside often expresses itself outwardly which is why Jesus said of false prophets, "you shall know them by their fruits" (Matthew 7:16). However, it is also true that folks are often skilled at hiding their true inner self from those around them. Jesus described the scribes and Pharisees of His day in the words, "Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness" (Matthew 23:28). While we may hide our true thoughts and feelings from other people, we cannot hide them from God. He sees us as we really are for, He looks, not at the outward appearance, but the heart. He knows our deepest thoughts and our intentions whether they are good or evil. "The Lord knows the thoughts of man, that they are futile" (. Psalms 94:11). The word of God has the power to "discern the thoughts and intents of the heart...And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." (Hebrews 4:12-13).

Dear reader, what does God see when He looks on your heart? Does He see a heart hardened by the deceitfulness of sin and intent on continued rejection of the salvation he offers? Or does He see a humble heart open to doing the will of God and intent on making preparation for heaven? Does He see a selfish heart or a selfless heart? Does He see an angry heart or a happy heart? Does He see a rebellious heart or a submissive heart? God is looking at **YOUR** heart. What does He see? "Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God" (1 John 3:21). "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8). greenplainchurchofchrist.org.