

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

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Self

"All of the significant battles are waged within self." – Sheldon Kopp

"May God defend me from myself." – Michel de Montaigne, *Essays*

"What lies behind us or before us are tiny matters compared with what lies in us." – Anonymous

"The disease we all have and that we have to fight against all our lives is...the disease of self." – Sherwood Anderson, in Howard Mumford Jones, editor, *Letters of Sherwood Anderson*

Who is your biggest enemy? You might be surprised to find out that often times it is yourself. Even the apostle Paul admitted his frustration, "For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do" (Rom. 7:15).

Who is it that makes the choice not to attend a church service? Who is it that makes the choice to participate in something that a Christian should not do? Who is it that puts the lust of the flesh before spiritual matters? Yes, it is self.

Is it any surprise that Jesus said, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me" (Matt. 16:24). Our Lord knew that our greatest stumbling block comes from within. One cannot be a disciple of Christ as long as self reigns supreme.

One of the saddest individuals today has to be those who are in a tug of war with God. Perhaps we could say that they have just enough religion to be miserable. They know what is right and wrong, and they struggle with themselves trying to keep one foot in the church and one foot in the world. We might say they try to straddle the fence. Our Lord had words of wisdom for those who seek to live in this manner. "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon" (Matt. 6:24).

The apostle Paul told the brethren at Colossae, that there is a right way to think. "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God" (Col. 3:1-3). "...Do you not know...you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Cor. 6:19-20).