

NO JUNK PILE HEARTS

OPEN HEART | LIVING IN CHRIST WITH NOTHING TO HIDE 2 CORINTHIANS

October 18th, 2015

George Hulse

- **Where does junk have a tendency to pile up in your house? In our house, it is the garage.**
 - It is in perpetual improvement! But sometimes it is one of the places I wouldn't want you to see!
- **The place in our lives that tends to pile up junk (if we are not intentional about tending to it) is our heart.**
 - If we haven't been intentionally open to God for a while, we may not want to open it to others.

A JUNK PILE HEART WILL HINDER OUR PRAYERS

"If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. 19 But God did listen! He paid attention to my prayer."

PSALM 66:18-19

A JUNK PILE HEART WILL HINDER OUR LIVES

"Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life."

PROVERBS 4:23

WHAT SHOULD BELIEVERS HAVE IN OUR OPEN HEARTS?

3 "Clean Heart" qualities for believers: 1) holiness and sincerity, 2) Grace, and 3) Honest Straightforwardness.

- In 2 Corinthians 1:12-2:4 The Apostle Paul opens his heart to the church at Corinth.
 - His change of plans to visit them has led to suspicion...
 - They question his heart, ministry, and message!

HOLINESS & SINCERITY

- "Holiness" refers to living like God not the ways of the world. "Sincerity" is a heart not 'cracked' with deceit and hypocrisy.
 - Pots were examined by the light of the sun. So, our hearts are examined by how we conduct ourselves towards others, with God as witness.
 - May this NEVER be said of us: "May your lives be as awesome as you pretend it is on Instagram and Facebook..."

Paul argues that the inner tribunal of his conscience has assessed whether or not he conducted himself according to the norms of holiness and godly sincerity. The verdict of his conscience is yes, he did. Later in the letter he trusts that their consciences will reach the same decision (see 4:2; 5:11).

Garland, D. E. (1999)
2 Corinthians (Vol. 29, pp. 8889)
Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

GRACE

- **Our conduct in life must depend upon God's grace, and not mere human wisdom.**
 - Get a Grace Perspective: We follow a Savior who was crucified by this world, so let's not be too surprised when things don't go all that well for us!
 - Depend upon grace to see us through! Depending on grace includes; prayer, trust, refusal to lean on our own understanding, taking the hard road, putting others first in love...!

WHEN LIFE GETS ROUGH

God's Grace grows more precious as people and problems grow more difficult!

"Problems force us to look to God and depend on him instead of ourselves. You'll never know that God is all you need until God is all you've got."

RICK WARREN

2. OUR GOD IS THE SOURCE OF ALL COMFORT.

STRAIGHTFORWARD HONESTY

As Believers in Jesus, we must think first, and edit our words carefully! So that we say (or write) what we mean, and mean what we say (or write). Words are powerful things, so let us use them graciously!

HOW DO WE LIVE WITH HEARTS THAT ARE CLEAN, CLEAR AND CLEANSED?

- 1. Confess the mess to God! He cleans...**
- 2. Commit our hearts to God! He constructs...**
- 3. Collect on God's promise of His Holy Spirit! He commissions...**