

Readings from the Word of God

16 January 2022

Psalm 32:1-2 (Kempton Translation, modified)

- 1 Happy is he whose transgression is lifted,
Whose sin is covered.
- 2 Happy is the man to whom Jehovah does not count iniquity,
If only in his spirit there is no deceitfulness.
- 3 When I was silent,
My bones were worn out by my roaring all the day.
- 4 For day and night Your hand was heavy on me;
My moisture was turned into the droughts of summer. Selah.
- 5 I made known my sin to You,
And my iniquity I have not covered;
I said, "I will confess unto Jehovah concerning my
transgressions,"
And You have lifted the iniquity of my sin. Selah.
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- 8 I will make you to have intelligence and instruct you in the
way you shall go;
I will give counsel with My eye upon you.

Married Love §529

If [people who are in a state of good from the Lord]... purposefully and deliberately refrain from one evil because it is a sin, they refrain from them all; and this still more if they refrain from several evils. For as soon as anyone purposefully or deliberately refrains from some evil because it is a sin, they are kept by the Lord in the intention to refrain from the rest. Consequently, if that person then does evil unknowingly or under the sway of some overwhelming lust of the body, still it is not imputed to them, because they had not intended it, nor do they defend it in themselves.

A person can achieve this intention if they examine themselves once or twice a year and repent of the evil that they find in themselves. This is not the case if they never examine themselves.

Married Love §489

Adulteries [of the second degree] committed by... people are imputable to them depending on whether their intellect afterwards approves them or disapproves of them. The more the intellect approves of evils, the more a person takes them to themselves and makes them their own. Approval is consent, and consent induces the mind to love them. The opposite is the case if the adulteries are not afterwards approved.

Heaven and Hell §533

It is important to realise... that the difficulty of... resisting evils increases to the extent that we deliberately do evil things—in fact, to that extent we become used to doing them until ultimately we no longer see them. Then we come to love them and to excuse them to gratify our love and to rationalise them with all kinds of self-deceptions and call them permissible and good.

Secrets of Heaven §6203

When this happens the person looks around for ideas such as will support the notion that the thing is not an evil, until they become thoroughly convinced it is not. At this point they strive so far as they can to get rid of external restraints and to make it allowable and smart, and at length even attractive and honourable, to engage in adulterous practices, theft involving trickery and deceit, various forms of arrogance and boasting, contempt for others, insults,... and other things like these.

Divine Providence §278

Evils cannot be removed unless they appear. [A person]... must examine themselves, not only their actions, but also their thoughts, and what they would do if they did not fear the laws and disgrace—especially what evils they make allowable in their spirit and do not regard as sins, for these they continue to do.

.... From the higher or inner thought [that a person has been endowed with in their intellect] they may see what their will is doing in the lower or outer thought. They see this as someone sees their face in a mirror, and when they do, and know what sin is, they can, if they beg for the Lord's help, stop willing it, refrain from it, and subsequently behave contrary to it. If they cannot do this readily, still they can overcome it through struggle, and at last become averse to it and despise it.

Psalm 139:23-24 (Kempton Translation, modified)

- ²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Test me, and know my anxieties;
²⁴ And see if there is any way of grief in me,
And lead me in the way everlasting.

Luke 15:20-24 (NKJV)

²⁰ “And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

²² “But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. ²³ And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; ²⁴ for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”