

Scripture: Romans 7:14 – Romans 8:8

Singing: 317:1-2 – 294:1-3 – 147:1, 3, 4 – 172:1-4

Intro: Hannah's song contains a remarkable line of truth (1 Sam. 2:6-7)

The LORD killeth, and maketh alive; He bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up. The LORD maketh poor and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.

A. Pray as you listen: *That which I see not teach Thou me!* (Job 34:32)

1. Our first two visit with the Soul Physician brought to light *unsettling truth*

a. we do not love God as Jesus, the Son of man, does (Luke 22:42, 44)

b. we do not love neighbors as Son of man does (Matt 5:43-48)

c. this confirms that 'all are gone out of the way' (Rom. 3:12; Gen. 6:5)

2. Sadly: *there is more unsettling news in God's report*

a. consider Romans 8:7-8; Jer. 2:22, 25; Jer. 13:23; Matt. 7:18; 1 Cor 2:14

THE DESPERATE CASE OF OUR CARNAL MIND

I. It is death II. It is enmity

I. The Carnal Mind is death

A. Our 'carnal mind' (vs. 7) is as root to the fruit (minding of flesh vs. 5-6)

1. The carnal mind and minding of things of the flesh (sin) is *spiritual condition*

2. This condition does not *lead* to death but *is death* (Rom. 8:6)

a. It is true that *our sinful deeds/choices leads to death* (Rom. 2:4-11)

b. It is also true that *our sinfulness (condition) is present death*

- definition of death

- evidence of death

c. If *now* to be like that is 'death' already, what will be the future be?

3. This is the spiritual condition of every *unrenewed heart*

II. The Carnal Mind is enmity against God

- A. This is by far the hardest hitting truth about natural man
1. We are *enemies* of God while being religious: Titus 3:3, Mark 10:22
 - a. Are you a *mercenary Christian*?

 2. Yet we are more than enemies: ***we are enmity against God***
 - a. a 'carnal mind' that is an enemy, is not quite so bad

 - b. but a carnal mind that is enmity, is a crushing message
 - a *sinner* can convert but *sinfulness* cannot convert

 - c. why Q/A. 5 & 8 of Heidelberg Catechism is spot-on

CLOSING CONSIDERATIONS ...

- A. Do you understand Jews in John 6:60 *This is a hard saying: who can hear it?*
- B. Do you grasp HOW bitter – crushing but also how appalling this truth is?
- C. Why be angry with Him *telling* us this 'black/white' truth?

FOLLOW UP: PONDER AND DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING QUOTES.

1. An unconverted person is deliberately off course. (Unknown)
2. There is the seed of all sins – of the vilest and worst of sins – in the best of men. (Thomas Brooks)
3. Our corrupted hearts are factories of the devil. (Thomas Browne)
4. When I look into my heart, and take a view of my wickedness, it looks like an abyss infinitely deeper than hell. (Jonathan Edwards)
5. As we get to know ourselves better, we always find ourselves to be more depraved than we thought (Francois Fenelon)
6. So great is our depravity as unregenerate man that, although there is nothing that he needs more than the Gospel, there is nothing that he desires less. (R. B. Kuiper)
7. Original is in us like the beard on the face of men. We are shaved today and look clean but tomorrow our beard has grown again. It does not stop growing while we remain on earth. (Martin Luther)