

*Create in me a clean heart,
O God, And renew a
steadfast spirit within me.*

Psalms 51:10

A Worm In An Apple

Louis J. Sharp

How does a worm get inside an apple? Perhaps you think the worm burrows in from the outside. No, scientists have discovered that the worm hatches in the heart of the apple, then eases his way out.

Sin, like the worm, begins in the heart and works out through the person's thoughts, words and actions. For this reason, David once wrote, *"Create in me a clean heart, O God."*

-- Selected

Upon first reading the above I was reminded of the fact that often I had taken a bite of an apple and found half a worm. Ugh! Did this ever happen to you? The worm was concealed inside without our knowing of its presence. Yes, I have wondered how it got inside, but never pursued the thought any further.

However, there is a spiritual lesson for us in all of this. Our blessed Lord and Savior warned of corruption within, saying; *"O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh"* (**Matthew 12:32**). Any hidden evil will come out. Concealed, gnawing worms may be revealed. Thus, the need of repeated warnings about the condition of our hearts. Jesus clearly understood the fountain of sin.

One of Jesus' most scathing rebukes is in reference to this matter of "inside corruption." In **Matthew 23:25**, Jesus said: *"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess."* Thus he severely warned: *"Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also"* (**23:26**).

Store In My Heart

Psalm 115:1

Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

No matter what we may accomplish in our life, we need to understand that all glory should go to the Lord. Not the kind of "I give all glory to God" we see among celebrities and athletes much of the time. I am speaking of an honest, heartfelt acknowledgement that we are nothing without the help of the Lord.

Though we should regularly take time to consider where we would be if it were not for the help of the Lord, it should be a constant thought as we engage in our daily activities. I am convinced that life would be much less appealing to me if I were trying to get by on my own skill and knowledge. God's faithful love is a constant presence, and we are fortunate to know the path of True Life through His Son.



Mark's gospel has Jesus saying: *"For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders" (7:21)*. None can help but see the need for a "clean-up" job within the heart.

According to the Hebrew writer, our hearts are the source of unbelief. *"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God." (Hebrews 3:12)*

The apostle Peter graphically portrays this condition: *"But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls; an heart these have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children; Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness" (2Peter 2:12-15)*.

The question asked in the old gospel hymn, *"Is thy heart right with God?"* needs repeated emphasis. Corruption within brings forth evil fruit. Get your heart right in order to live right.

Say, are there any concealed worms living within your heart?

(I found this article in my filing cabinet and thought it would be helpful to us even though it was written almost 30 years ago. The Word of God does not change and sin and the struggle to keep it out of our life is the same today as it was in the last century. Keeping our heart right is a large part of keeping sin out of our life. The more we read and study the Word, the easier it will be. Remember our Gospel Meeting starts in 5 weeks. DLH)

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

Sue Soliday is doing physical therapy and is doing well. **Jim Soliday** is improving as he gets over the flu.

JoBeth Henderson has chemo on Tuesday. Some of her other meds are making her sleepy, but she is a little better.

Deberah Brooks has knee surgery scheduled on April 14.

Tommy Robinson has two spots of cancer, one in his right lung and another restricting his airway. He is on oxygen.

Leta Rivera has MRIs scheduled for this week. Prayers are requested that they don't find new lesions.

Sunday evening - **Isaiah 49:14** Wednesday - **Revelation 14:6**