

**Articles and Sermons :: The prevailing sin of Christians-james****The prevailing sin of Christians-james - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/2/16 7:08**

The prevailing sin of Christians

(J. A. James, "Evidences & Results of Sanctified Affliction")

Increasing deadness to the world, and growing spirituality of mind, are sure results of 'sanctified affliction'.

The love of the world is the great snare of the church in every age! Worldly-mindedness is now the prevailing sin of Christians. We see them on all hands too eager to make themselves happy on earth, and seeking their enjoyments, if not in the sinful amusements of the world--yet in its 'innocent and home-bred comforts'. They look not at unseen and eternal things, but at seen and temporal things. Theirs is too much a life of 'sense', refined it is true from its gross sinfulness--but still a life of sense, rather than a life of faith.

Hence there is "a needs be" for severe trials, if not to separate them and keep them separate from open and gross sins--yet to lift up their affections to things above, and to lead them to seek their happiness . . .

from God, the fountain of life;

from Christ, the Redeemer of their souls; and

from heaven, the object of their expectations.

When the world has been crucified to us, and we have been crucified to the world; when we have been taught its vanity and emptiness as a satisfying portion for the soul; when we have lost much of our anxiety to obtain its possessions, and of our dread of losing them; when we have turned from the folly of hewing out broken cisterns which can hold no water, and led more to the fountain of living waters; when we have lost our dependence on our comforts and possessions for happiness, and feel and rejoice in a glorious independence from 'created good' for bliss--when there is really and truly a conscious elevation of soul towards God and divine things --there is the evidence that we are sanctified by our trials.

"Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word. It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn Your statutes. I know, O Lord, that Your judgments are righteous, and that in faithfulness You have afflicted me." (Psalm 119:67, 71, 75)

Re: The prevailing sin of Christians-james - posted by Goldminer (), on: 2007/2/16 8:18

This is an excellent word.