

The Inward Man, by Jim Burks, Pastor-Trinity Missionary Baptist Church

We live in two worlds now that we are saved. It is almost like being two different people, but actually, our spirit is attracted by two different sources of influence. The outward part of us, our body, lives in and loves this present world, while the Inward man (spirit) lives within the finished work of Christ. If the two were to meet on the street, we might witness reactions like these:

Number 1- They pass but are oblivious to each other.

Number 2- The Outward Man is blind and cannot see the Inward Man.

Number 3- The Inward Man makes a welcome gesture but gets no response.

Number 4- The Outward Man sees the Inward Man but is way too busy.

Number 5- The Outward man recognizes the Inward Man but is embarrassed.

Number 6- The Inward Man keeps pleading until the Outward Man goes to a Missionary Baptist Church, reads article five of the statement of faith and learns that Salvation is by grace.

Number 7- Gospel preaching goes through the Outward Man and into the Inward Man.

Number 8- The Outward Man meets the Inward Man for the first time since they Fell from God's fellowship, and together they ask, "What must I do to be saved," Act 16:31.

Man is not three persons. He is but one being with three components. God created man in His Triune image giving him a spirit, soul and body, I Thess 5:23. While in the Garden, Adam walked and communed with God. He fellow shipped God wholly, in body, soul and spirit, as one being.

But, when the Fall of man occurred in Genesis 3, all three components of man were separated from God and therefore, from life, which caused a spiritual death. Man became dead (separated) because he disobeyed. Since then, the Inward Man is a slave to the Outward Man and remains locked up in his flesh prison. But the Fall has not stopped man from an attempted worship (every society has). Worship, however, is offered by means of carnality, which controls the flesh. Consequently, man's first act of worship focuses upon flesh and outward nature. He sews fig leaves to cover him and polishes the outside of the cup. Yet, man remains spiritually dead to God, in body, soul and spirit.

We see man attempt atonement for his sin, so he can be reinstated back to God. But, in his spiritual darkness, he seeks and worships only what he can see, the creation (See Romans 1:25). "And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four footed beasts, and creeping things," Romans 1:23.

But, man has hope because God so loved him. The good news is Christ died for the ungodly, for sinners and for enemies, Ro 5:6-10. You might be a nice guy, but when it comes to God's righteousness, you come up short and need a Savior. And, church people, who know a lot about Adam's sin and Christ's salvation, should sit down with a cup of coffee in order to know his Inward Man much better. The Outward Man balks, but he comes around, even to the point of a living sacrifice, Ro 12:1. Salvation, hope, and power over the flesh are reasons for the Inward Man to rejoice in Jesus Christ, "by whom we have now received the ATONEMENT," Ro 5:11.

Certainly, the understanding of most saved people does not go much further than the first faith they had when they were saved. But, in the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, we must utilize the power that has been given to us. The Holy Spirit operates within the church, renewing the inward man, day by day, 2 Cor 4:16. But, incredibly, church members tend more to the decay of the outward man than to the renewal of the inward man! We must get back to our hearts where the light first shined 2 Co 4:6.

When you sit down with the Inward Man, he will show you things that are invisible, but eternal, 2 Cor 4:18. You will learn that Faith is the substance and all the evidence you need. You will see the Inward Man, in his earthen house, earnestly desiring for the house from heaven, 2 Cor 5:1. You will no longer see Adam, but Christ, not the earthly Christ after the flesh, but the King of Kings upon His throne. You will see His kingdom come, God's will done on earth. You look beyond the outward and see that city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God, Heb 11:11. Suddenly, man is on his tiptoes and Inwardly, he cries, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus, Rev 22:21.