



Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study 1:30 PM
7:00 PM

www.collinsvillecoc.org

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

Vol. 45, No. 11

Collinsville Church of Christ

March 15, 2017

Removing Dross from Silver

Solomon wrote, *“Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer”* (Prov. 25:4). Dross is the contaminate and impure materials found in metals that have been refined or purified. There is no value to dross and it devalues the metals in which it is found.

Solomon is teaching a lesson on purifying the heart. When the heart is filled with impurities, it cannot be molded properly by the silversmith who is God. Those things that cause our lives to be devalued need to be eliminated from our lives. Metals have the dross removed by going through high, intense heat. Once the metal goes through the heat, the impurities are removed and the metal is purified and has more value.

How can we rid our lives of the dross that contaminates our souls? We must apply the pure word of God to the heart. *“The word is very pure; therefore they servant loveth it”* (Ps. 119:40). *“The statutes of the Lord are right rejoicing rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes”* (Ps. 19:8). The pure word of God can cleanse the impure heart.

The rich young ruler was one who whose heart had the impurity of the love of riches within it. When the truth and purity of the word clashed with the impurity of his heart, he did not allow the pure word to remove the contaminates. As a result, he walked away from the Lord and was sorrowful (Matt. 19:16-22).

Zacchaeus, on the other hand, had some of the same impurities in his heart, but when the pure word of God was taught to him by Jesus, he changed his life and even corrected the wrongs he had committed against others. The dross was removed and he became a valued metal that the Lord could mold (Luke 19:1-10).

Each of us should be allowing the pure word of God to remove any contaminates we have in our hearts. It may become uncomfortable because the purifying process is never easy, but the end result is beautiful and valuable. Allow His word to cleanse and purify your heart so He can mold it into His valuable and profitable vessel.

-K.A. Pugh

Have you visited Elephant Rock State Park about 60-70 south of St. Louis? How about Rock City in Tennessee? Or maybe Meramec Caverns? What do these and other rock formations have in common? Just about every popular rock formation will have a place where the rocks are so close together that it is labeled Fat Man’s Squeeze. The point is, it is difficult to get through the narrow opening.

Jesus indicated something similar in our spiritual lives. He indicated that the easy pathway leads to eternal destruction while the narrow and more difficult pathway leads to life.

For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few. Matt 7:14 ESV

There are only two pathways in life—the broad way that leads to destruction and the narrow way that leads to life. Which will you travel today?

Don’t take the easy way out. Strive to enter in through the narrow way every day. Discipline yourself today.

TLM

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