

appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." Incidentally right there you have an illustration of the fact we do not take words exactly literally always, but we see what the words mean in the context. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. Does that mean God doesn't look at the outward appearance? Doesn't he see us? Doesn't he know about our outward appearance? It does not mean he looks at the heart rather than at other things, but he puts his emphasis on the heart. The Lord is interested in all, but his emphasis is ~~at~~ the heart. The Lord's greatest interest is the heart. Though he is interested in everything else about us of course.

But the Lord looks at the heart. If we look at one another how easy it is for us to be deceived. No one of us ~~can~~ can know half the relevant facts about anyone else. We know comparatively little and we can be completely deceived and misled by the outward expression, by the attitude. I find myself irritated at somebody because of something they have done, some attitude they have taken or something they have said. And then when I found out the facts I have found in many cases that actually my irritation had no true foundation at all. I had misunderstood. I had not known what their real attitude was. It is easy for us to be deceived, but the Lord peers into the very center of our hearts.

So how important it is that we strive to have our hearts be so that God can look upon them with favor. Of course God sees the sin of every one of us. We could never possibly be saved thru our works, the Lord has freed us from our guilt and he has begun the process of cleansing us which he wishes us to diligently seek to continue to the utmost as long as he leaves us here upon earth.

How important it is that we realize that our hearts' situation, our heart attitude, our heart love to God, our love to our fellow-men, our love to all that God has created, should be ~~practically~~ vital in our lives. We should realize the power and greatness and goodness of God, and constantly live in such a way that he can look upon our lives and be pleased with them. To realize that what he sees and what he thinks is far more important than what any man can. The Lord looks upon the heart.

Somebody has said, It is possible to have a good devotional life even in a theological seminary. That was == sounds like a silly thing to say, but actually it is very easy for us to be so concerned with studying the important things God wants us to study that we fail to take time to apply them to our hearts. And this is utterly worthless--though I have all knowledge, as Paul says, and have not God's love in my heart it is worthless. Let us strive to have our hearts be such that the Lord can look upon them with favor. That is what is vital. How the Lord looks us. The Lord looks at the heart.

I think that is very very important, but I think we must not in looking at that overlook the latter part of the verse which also has its importance. Man looks at the outward appearance; *the Lord looks at the heart.*