



WCF 15.2 (TPH p928)

II. By it, a sinner, out of the sight and sense not only of the danger, but also of the filthiness and odiousness of his sins, as contrary to the holy nature and righteous law of God; and upon the apprehension of his mercy in Christ to such as are penitent, so grieves for, and hates his sins, as to turn from them all unto God,(c) purposing and endeavouring to walk with Him in all the ways of His commandments.(d)

(c) Ezek. 18:30, 31; Ezek. 36:31; Isa. 30:22; Ps. 51:4; Jer. 31:18, 19; Joel 2:12, 13; Amos 5:15; Ps. 119:128; II Cor. 7:11.

(d) Ps. 119:6, 59, 106; Luke 1:6; II Kings 23:25.

Ps 119:6 **Then I would not be ashamed,
When I look into all Your commandments.**

⁵⁹ **I thought about my ways,
And turned my feet to Your testimonies.**

¹⁰⁶ **I have sworn and confirmed
That I will keep Your righteous judgments.**

- ALL the commandments. The determining factor is that they are His (cf. Mt 28:20).
- The mind shaping the will, and the will driving the actions
- The necessity of both

Luke 1:5 **There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. ⁷ But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years.**

- Righteousness is before God, first and foremost
- The purposing and endeavoring matters, but the walking has its own significance
- Again, ALL the commandments

2Kings 23:21 **Then the king commanded all the people, saying, “Keep the Passover to the LORD your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant.” ²² Such a Passover surely had never been held since the days of the judges who judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah. ²³ But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah this Passover was held before the LORD in Jerusalem. ²⁴ Moreover Josiah put away those who consulted mediums and spiritists, the household gods and idols, all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD. ²⁵ Now before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses; nor after him did any arise like him.**

- “as it is written in this book,” v21
- “all the abominations”... “that he might perform the words of the law which were written” ..., v24
- Turning to Yahweh is all of what you are to do all of what He says

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

So we come to the end of paragraph to you and the chapter on repentance. The part that we purpose and endeavor to cover in the next half an hour so is purposing and endeavoring to walk with him in all the ways of his commandments, let's begin in prayer.

Our father in heaven how we thank you that you have created us to know you to glorify you to enjoy you. That you created using words and you have redeemed us by your son the word and that your spirit uses words to bring us to faith in him and to work repentance in us and.

We thank you for communicating yourself to us. We pray Lord that you would help us now by your spirit as we study your word. That we would receive it as breathed out by you. So that when we walk according to the word we would be seeing and knowing it as walking with you walking before you.

So help us as we look at your word and increase our commitment. To what you have said when you thank you for the confession that you helped our fathers in the faith right and summarizing your word and we pray Lord that you would help us to hold on to the truths that you have caused to be passed down to us from the scripture and help us Lord to pass them on to others.

Grant that as we study these things week by week this would be a foundation that is built not just for our individual lives who are gathered here now but a foundation that is established for a long multi-generational work in this congregation and in your church we ask these things in Jesus name amen.

So the paragraph as a whole is by it by repentance unto life. And by repentance and to life a center out of the site and sense not only of the danger. But also of the filthiness and odiousness of his sins as contrary to the holy nature and righteous law of God and upon the apprehension of his mercy in Christ to such as our penitent.

So grieves for and hates his sins to turn the from them all unto God now the part that we are on this week purposing and endeavoring to walk with him. In all the ways of his commandments. Now the first proof text they've given us is three verses out of Psalm 119 and I'm a hope I'm not short-changing us too much by failing to go ahead and do all 176 verses of the psalm but this would have been a blunt song.

I'm grateful for our dear sister who is very kind of intentionally cycling us through in the singing the in the afternoons. All the sections of this of this psalm, but they would have expected for us to. To know the entire song by heart. I think so. I've just put the three verses on that they selected although we really could you know, make a year's study of going through it for six then I would not be ashamed when I look and you can James says into it's probably two or toward when I look into all your commandments.

And then verse 59. I thought about my ways and turned my feet. To your. Testimonies. The verse 106. I have sworn and confirmed that I will keep your. Righteous judgments. But when there are several reasons why these three verses would be proof texts for purposing and endeavoring to walk with him in order all the ways of his commandments.

One is the fact that it's all your commandments there in verse six. We're to keep all the commandments of God. If there's not a picking and choosing we often emphasize the ones. When thinking about others that we think we do on or do better than they do that is a fleshly way of of going about it.

When we look to all his commandments, hey, we're not ashamed because Christ has kept them all B we're not ashamed because we are being conformed to Christ and so you are not in a losing battle as much stumbling and difficulty as there is along the way. But it is all and the reason it's all is because they are his what look at that second person singular possessive on the commandments and the second half of verse 6 on the testimonies the second half of verse 59 on the right just judgments on the second half of verse 106 when I look into all your commandments and turn my feet to.

Your testimonies and verse 106 that I will keep your righteous judgments.

Hesitate because I don't want to. Let me just use a different illustration.

You can imagine a bride who newly married and the the joy that she has and putting out the her husband's fork at breakfast as she sets it down next to the plate. You notice she's nearly married because she's setting the table for breakfast and yeah, that's not gonna happen too long.

Well, maybe it will ocean soil short, but the fact that she's setting. Breakfast out and there's two plates and that's his plate and there's two forks and that's his fork and the preciousness of it, you know, forks are not particularly precious. Unless you've been trying to eat something with chopsticks and you're not very good at it but the fact that it's his fork is what makes it precious.

The preciousness of God's commandments, you know, they have perfect inherent value right there, there are righteous they are wise they are good but there's a preciousness above all of those things in the fact that they are his. That is where getting some kind of no maybe because of this.

That that is where this phrase purposing endeavoring to walk with him in all the ways of his commandments, you're obedience to God's law when you repent when you turn from your sin to God is not just falling the and perhaps the you've. You've had this illustration drilled into you like it was drilled into me and my childhood that were were following the manufacturers manual right he is the one who made you and he's the one who says how to do it and that's true to some extent he did make us and he is right about everything he says because he's the he's the creator.

But it is a personal walking before him that's the main thing in the first commandment that you are always before the God who made you and who has redeemed you. I'm all your god who brought you out he says, so you're before the face of the God who made you and redeem you?

But the commandments are his it's personal and so you're turning to him and them and that's why we can't pick and choose. Because if the determining factor in obeying thoughts commandments is that they are is then whatever he has commanded has behind it the same force of your personally belonging to him as his creature, you're personally belonging to him as the one whom he has saved

for himself your personally belonging to him as the one who exists to glorify him and to enjoy him, they didn't give as proof text Matthew 28 verse 20, but that's the last verse.

From what we often call the great commission and Jesus has just finished highlighting his authority it's his authority all authority that has been given to him in heaven on an on earth and the the mark that has put on them is his mark baptizing them. Into the name of the Father Son and Holy Spirit singular name the triune name is just one name it's not three names and so his authority his ownership that's his sign kind of like how you know, you got three boys two and a half years apart in my house growing up we would get our you know, first initial sewn into the big toe of every sock so that if the laundry got mixed up Jesus has put his sign.

Al on you he puts he marked you off as his own and then he says teaching them to keep all that. I have commanded you when the it's the fact that it is his that mean that determines that we have to do all of it if you only do the things that make sense to you and I don't know how many times I've heard grown it up Christians give the two-year-old why answer.

To a commandment of Jesus then unless I understand exactly how this is good and and why it is good and what effect it will have then then I will resist in my heart obedience to this command and you know, there are some commandments that get that treatment more than others.

Second fourth, usually.

But the big factor is. Because he's your God. Because he's your creator because he's your redeemer. Yeah because I said so answer to a two-year-old is a good answer. Because that's basically the fifth commandment. Because God is the one who decided that you would be my child and I would be your daddy and I said so.

Well God is God and he said so and that's enough now he is gracious and merciful and tells us all sorts of things about the goodness of his law and how it is conducive to our good and to his glory but because I said so is all that we need which really was highlighted in the first commandment, right?

I mean the very first one in the garden with the tree of the, With the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat why. Well because I said so and because I kill you if you do. In the day that you eat of it useful surely die, so it's all of his commandments and repentance is unto all of his commandments.

Sanctification is all your life long, you will be growing and holiness for the rest of this earthly life if you're a Christian. Repentance is from all of your sin all at once to all of his commandments all at once because they are his. Second thing to note here is the relationship between this purposing and endeavoring and the walking.

If you look particularly at verse 59, he says, I thought about my ways and turned my feet to your testimonies and then verse 1 is 6. I have sworn and confirmed so again, that's the exercise of the thought upon the will. Then that I will keep your righteous judgments moving to the action now we for the last.

Increasingly so for the last hundred and sixty seventy years or so have been well, maybe a little bit longer than that now have been very feeling driven but that. The. The view of man in the Bible is that our thoughts. Form our wills that God gives us understanding so that we we know and learn and that shapes what we resolve and purpose and our feelings are actually third in the faculties of the of the soul you're feelings are to be brought in submission to what is true and what you are trying to do feelings are supposed to be third we're completely upside down and backwards now feeling is everything.

And we rarely even think you just have the feeling and then you act upon the feeling so the feeling determines the choice and then we kind of backfill what we think based upon how we feel and what we want to do, we we form our view of the world based on how we feel or want to feel.

Scripture has us would have us to renew our mind because our thoughts should form our choices and our thoughts and choices should determine whether or not we are feeling appropriately in every situation so that's the relationship from the thinking to the turning in verse 59 from the swearing and confirming this purposing to the keeping in verse 106 now the Lord wants both of those yes.

David. How you say the point is made there. I think it was very important for us to take note of who was most of the things we encounter both in the church and outside the church or political things are popular emotional. And if you don't realize that you're dealing with someone you're saying can't you see the logic of what I'm saying, well, they're not arguing on logic, but if you don't know that.

You very very frustrated and and I think that's just very it's just very important to note you made there that the most people argue most things today in our world from an emotional position not from a position of large study discs and this this is what I've teach it so anyway.

I just want to fill.

Critical logic anyway, so even if we didn't have this best award feeling and equaling. They want to do away with whatever foundation. Would even remain in regard to the pursuit of logic./ thought.

Because it was trying to reason with someone. And I'm glad not to be in my former denomination anymore but you're trying to reason with someone and they're actually attacking logic as being Western or white they weren't saying white five years ago, but they were already saying western yeah that's a real western approach as you know, when you when you try to work from logic.

When you are dealing with feelings, it is a revolutionary thought for a lot of people that feelings are right or wrong. That they are not their own self-governing thing that it's right to feel a certain way about something and wrong to feel a certain way about something. The Lord wants in our repentance he wants all of it and one of the things in noticing that it moves from purposing and endeavoring to the walking is that you and I need.

Look at this wrong way. We need mental help. We need theological correction and instruction, even if our theology is good when we get to our walking as bad we need to trace back to the truth of the Bible to determine again our will and our walking. That's how the Lord designed us and our hope for walking rightly is.

His grace is working in us the Spirit uses the Word and so. We need to develop skill informing convictions from the Scripture. This also has implications for you children who are learning to do your devotions. It's good for you to start now as you read your Bible to be making to learn the habit of making commitments to the Lord and before the Lord as you're reading the Bible.

Also, as you hear the preaching of the Bible I think well other older people might be further along and grace than I am. So, I'll just speak for myself. One of the one of the dangerous habits that I can fall into is reading the Bible and learning things and and improving how I understand various points of theology.

But not interacting with God in the difference that that ought to make in what I choose how I feel how I act. Okay, the the.

So, okay reading the Bible and kind of a perfunctory manner or pure analysis. So, when you read the Bible. You are reading the words of a person. Before whom you live and with whom you ought to be walking. And so if you are just having the the ideas formed without making commitments and responding with heart and purpose towards him, you're you're doing half of the exercise or less, you know, when I'm encouraging the the children to do is to be thinking what does the Lord want me to believe about him and what does the Lord want me to do right?

What do the scriptures teach?

All right. Okay, John.

Okay, so you're looking for both of those things and you want to interact with him in both of those things. Yeah, Phil.

Ip. Meditating on what you're reading with him turtleizing it not with his knowledge externally externalizing it as action. And both our practice if you will our practice is the thing that we can observe as to whether our doxy is right or not, but and then doxy so there's there's a loop where they go back and forth at each other.

Especially being in this simmering. Continually. Yeah. So, keep interacting with the Lord in his word the the habit that you can fall into of not thinking about conviction in your devotions, you can do the flip side of that when it comes to your actions. You do something that's wrong.

You feel guilty about it, which is right to feel guilty about what is wrong. You. Ask God for forgiveness your rejoice over the gospel and you're gonna you're gonna do better now or you resolve to do better now. It is good to form that resolution freshly from Scripture freshly from the doctrine the theology that the Scripture teaches you knowing how God has constructed us so that we so that we.

Don't just form a conviction one time in the past and constantly, you know, correct back to that one but that you it's developed the the mind and heart habit of making new resolutions from Scripture this resolving and purposing and walking with him and interacting with him. Again, someone 19 as a whole.

I think would repay if you read a couple verses a day and just keep cycling through it or sing a few as we become more familiar with the bean solder.

The Luke one passage talking about Zach Rice and Elizabeth beginning verse five there wasn't the days of Herod the king of Judah certain priest named Zechariah, so the division of Abisha his wife was of the daughters of Aaron and her name was Elizabeth and they were both righteous before God.

Walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless but they had no child because Elizabeth was barren and they were both well advanced in years just a few things to point out as you see on your sheet there, first of all, righteousness is first and foremost before God.

Second of all the purposing endeavoring and endeavoring this decision and trying purposing and endeavoring those things matter but walking has its own significance it's pretty amazing that the text says that they were walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless now we know for instance by what the Lord Jesus teaches and, In Matthew chapter 5, or the apostle.

Paul pointing out by using the 10th commandment that God wants even the intentions of our hearts. We know that obedience includes your your thoughts your choices your feelings all of those things and yet and yet the walking has its own significance the fact that as far as outward performance goes the Lord says that they were doing so blamelessly and that doesn't necessarily mean.

Perfectly the word blameless as is often used in the sense that it was used with Job although different language Hebrew from Greek that the the whole of his life his life on the whole was commendable that you would use him as an example for anything that was righteous but the purposing and endeavoring matter but the walking has its own significance.

You know, someone recently, you know, we're talking about obedience to the Lord and particular area and they said well. You you want the obedience but you also want the desire for the obedience well, yes you do. You want both and yet you don't wait on the outward obedience until the desire is perfected if you do that you'll actually never do the outward obeying if you're doing the outward obeying but you don't have the desire there's good news the same God who's grace you depend upon for your forgiveness you depend upon his grace for your walking with him in obedience to all of his commandments and so you keep doing the outward but you.

Ask him to give you the inward as well, but the outward has its own significance, this is a wonderful commendation of Zacharias and his wife and of course we know that they were not spiritually perfect because Zach Rice was just about to be disciplined by God for lack of faith and.

But they were both righteous before God walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless and you who love the glory of God's grace want his grace to be glorified by the same being able to be said of you and again walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord.

Okay and then the famous statement about Josiah at the end of second king's 23 now before him there was no king like him who turned to Yahweh with all his heart with all his soul with all his might according to all the law of Moses nor after him did any arise like him backing up a little bit to verse 21?

Want to see a couple of little case studies of what it looks like to turn to you all with all the heart all the soul all the might according to all the law so back to verse 21 then the king commanded all the people saying keep the pass over to Yahweh your God as it is written in this book of the covenant.

Okay, so again the that which is written drives what you do verse 22 is such a Passover surely had never been held since the days of the judges who judged Israel nor and all the days of the kings of Israel in the kings of Judah but in the 18th year of King Josiah this pass over was held before you all way in Jerusalem.

Wherever Josiah put away those you consulted mediums and spirits spiritus the household gods and the idols all the abominations that were seen in the land of Jude and Jerusalem that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that he'll kind of the priest found in the house of Yahweh.

Now before him there was no king like him who turned to Yale way with all his heart with all his soul with all his might. According to all the law of Moses nor after him did any arise like him? So what does repentance look like? It is a turning to Yahweh.

In all of what you are. To do all of what he says. So in his heart and soul, you have the purposing and then endeavoring their and then with all his might you have the actual walking and then according to all the love. Moses you have all all the ways of his commandments.

Now, it's not going to get easier as you grow older to remember that you are before the face of God. It's it's very easy to get in the habit of worrying about what other people see. One of the things children that we want for you is that you care about what God sees.

That when we when we correct you when we instruct you. By we I mean your parents primarily but also all those who are helping you in the Lord keeping our our covenant vows with one another. We don't want you merely to feel embarrassed or try to get out of punishment.

We want to help you remember that God wants your heart. So when you are corrected by God in your divisions like we're talking earlier or by the word that you hear preach or through the means of a parent who is disciplining you one of the things that you need to develop a habit of is endeavoring in your heart towards the Lord to obey him being grateful for getting caught for what happens.

Outside and your relationships interactions with others because of what it exposes about your heart with the Lord so that you will develop this habit of moving from conviction to action. If all you get is yeah ouch my behind is warm. I better not do that again. You know that helps with the action but that's not repentance like the Bible teaches repentance.

Viable teaches you to purpose and endeavor to walk in his commandments because there is and to resolve that from your heart and you know, for those of us who are parents that's that's what we are going after and you go after that with the word by the spirit and with prayer they're just are not shortcuts and if we take shortcuts we will try to train them in the taking of shortcuts.

We can you know, we can't produce grace in their heart but we can train them in a way that aims at repentant Christians as opposed to in a way that is Taylor made for producing Pharisees. So the result of the heart because the law is his and its personal independence upon him this walking with him those components are what we are after in our own repenting and those are the components that we need to be after in our children's repenting.

Resolve in the heart to walk in all the commandments because they are his and independence upon him if we're just trying to remedy behavior then we are not going after biblical repentance biblical repentance is far more than merely remedying and fixing outward behavior. I feel like that was I the whole bunch of mush but I hope the basic the basic parts of it came through it's one of the reasons why a really brief confession of faith can be so helpful.

I hope you appreciate as we move through all of these scriptures and as we see how much Bible teaching is actually summarized in these very very tightly formed phrases and sent. Ences hope you appreciate the economy of the confession that the Lord has providentially brought to us through our spiritual fathers, so purposing and endeavoring to walk with him.

In all the ways of his commandments. Hardly a word there that doesn't have very important weight for understanding in the bank, let's pray.

Our father in heaven we pray that your spirit would use the. Portions of your word that we have considered a little bit together we do want your grace to be glorified in the result in our outward walking but Lord we don't just want our behavior fixed we want to walk with you in all of your commandments help us to treasure them because they are yours so that your law will be precious to us.

We pray Lord for each of us that this parts of your law that we have been neglecting and failing to emphasize that your spirit would bring those to the four from your word we pray that you would help us to grow in this habit of establishing conviction and of purposing things before you and resolving or wills under you.

We pray Lord that as you make us more and more like our Redeemer that we would rejoice with his joy in you that you your law would be a pleasure to us that you yourself would be a pleasure to us who pray Lord especially for the young children and the parents who have been charged with teaching them and leading them that you would help us to walk in the way of biblical repentance.

And the the difference in how you have constructed us to be converted by your word which restores the soul that you would be our shepherd who restores our soul and our repenting we ask these things in his name amen.