***Hello Valley Heights Ladies!*** Reviewing our November 5th Bible Study!

*“Attitudes of a Transformed Heart”*

Chapter Three – ‘Psychologized Man “Most High” – ***Part 2’***

Martha has helped us through this chapter to see that the so-called“*Christian*” view of man is changing. It esteems man higher and in the process God gets smaller and smaller. It affects the gospel by making it *man-centered* instead of *God-centered* through focusing on man’s identity/worth/significance or man’s good works. Hence, that ***GOSPEL IS FALSE***.”

The *‘ME-centered’* Gospel today appeals to **SELF**! In Pastor MacArthur’s book, *“Hard to Believe”* he traces the ‘psychologically man-centered evangelicals’ back to Robert Schuller’s book: *“Self-esteem: The* *New Reformation.”* Pastor MacArthur believes that Robert Schuller’s book “was an effort to replace the ***BIBLICAL GOSPEL*** with a new gospel. And it worked.” Mr. Schuller called for a new reformation stating, “It is precisely at this point that *classic theology has erred,* in its insistence that theology be God-centered not man-centered.” ***THIS IS A TRAGIC SHIFT!*** This is the thing you’d think he’d want to deny **NOT** affirm! This destructive influence has threatened the **TRUE GOSPEL of SELF-DENIAL**! (Luke 9:23-26)

Mr. Schuller states, “This master plan of God is designed around the deepest needs of human beings which are self-dignity, self-respect, self-worth, self-esteem.” Pastor MacArthur says, “for Schuller, the pearl of great price is genuine *SELF-RESPECT* and *SELF-ESTEEM*.” Ladies, let’s remember “What makes a woman beautiful” is **NOT** having self-respect, but humbly fearing and esteeming (to make much about/prize/value) ***God*** Himself (Malachi 3:16) and His ***Holy Word*** (Psalm 119:128)!

Mr. Schuller states, “If we follow *‘God’s plan’* as faithfully as we can, we will ***FEEL GOOD*** about ourselves. God needs you and me to help create a society of self-esteeming people.”

In Martha’s *‘Introduction to Biblical Counseling’* course she quotes, “There may be no more serious **threat to the life of the Church** today than to ‘give a stamp of approval’ and embrace the doctrines of secular psychology. They are a mass of human ideas that satan has placed in the church as if they were powerful life changing truths from God.” They are deceptive ***lies*** replacing true doctrinal ***liberty***-Jn.8:32!

Let’s take one more glimpse at how this devastating philosophy exposes **PSYCHOLOGIZED WOMAN**:

**P** sychologized woman *elevates herself*. She seeks to ***“feel”*** good about herself. She *needs* recognition

**S** elf is *at the center* of her lusts—*her supposed needs* for significance, security, identity, or esteem

“**Y** es Lord” –an ***attitude of submission***, is secondarily in her thoughts. She *battles* to get her own way

**C** *ompromising* Truth, *she is controlled* by her *emotions* and *“feelings”* which fuels a *lack of discernment*

**H** er self-consuming thoughts often *controls others*, *“needing”* others to make her ***“feel”*** better

**O** ffered Biblical ***HOPE and HELP***, she continues to saturate her thoughts with *self* & her *circumstances*

**L** ed to think that she ‘must be confident in *her worth in Christ***before** she can turn to *love/help* others’

**O** ften *forgets* the Biblical ***truths*** and repeated ***commands*** in Scripture; **to love** because **HE first** loved us

**G** realty ***deceived***, she thinks she can’t glorify God and be used by Him until *‘fully emotionally healed’*

**I** nstead of purely proclaiming the ***“excellencies of HIM,”*** she is proud, protests, pouts and prefers **self**

**Z** eal for **her wants**, ***her needs***, ***her desires*** has consumed her. She forgets ***submission*** is her high-calling

**I** *dolatry* is at the heart of *her desires* and she is ***willing to sin*** against others because she ***can’t have it***

**E** steeming herself, *she seeks to use God* so she can ***feel better*** and be happy and be somebody ‘special’

**D** emanding ***to be heard*** and understood by others, she is robbed of *joy*, *peace* and *effectiveness*

As women, ***how do we respond*** to all of this? As each individual **WOMAN**, we need to:

**W** het our *appetite*: What ***God thinks*** and ***says*** is **MORE** important than what *‘we think’* and *‘feel’*

**O** penly ***admit*** and ***confess our idolatry*** of making our **“feelings”** our God which has produced *sinful* responses, attitudes and behavior and START obeying God

**M** ake every effort to **HUMBLE** ourselves before God (1Peter 5:6, 7) and **STOP** justifying our own sin

**A** ssume *responsibility* for our **OWN** sinful **ATTITUDES** and behaviour, **STOP** *rationalizing* our own sin and *realize* we’re not sick or in need of *‘recovery’*

**N** *ourish our souls* with Biblical ***TRUTH***: The only way we can ***be freed*** of our *sinful self* is to know that *BIBLICAL HELP* is in the truth of the scriptures **ALONE** and the Persons of *Jesus Christ* and the *Holy Spirit*!

**Martha says, “IF OUR FEELINGS TELL US ONE THING AND THE SCRIPTURE ANOTHER—WE HAVE TO GO WITH THE SCRIPTURES!”**

In conclusion, behaviour modification is for animals! Freud, Maslow, Erikson and other psychologists have on the whole been *firm believers of evolution*. They have ***always*** viewed man as some sort of human animal or organism. This is why so many of their *godless theories* are founded on the ***deception*** that “man must evolve through ***STAGES*** in order to become a mature” and useful person for society.

Martha shares, “The infusion of ***psychology*** into the teachings of the church has blurred the line of behavior modification and sanctification. ***The path of HOLINESS is the path of spiritual sanctification.*** Would we foolishly turn our backs on THE WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, THE SPRING of LIVING WATER for the *sensual wisdom* of this earth and the *stagnant water* of behaviorism????”

“Our **LORD JESUS** reacted in a perfect and **HOLY** way to every temptation and trial and trauma in life and they were *MORE SEVERE* than *ANY* human would ever suffer. ***THEREFORE***, it should be clear that victory over all of life’s troubles must be the result of being like Christ. Why should a believer choose to do behavior modification when she has the tools for ***SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION***!! We have the ***HOLY BIBLE***, and the ***HOLY SPIRIT***! It would be like a surgeon wreaking havoc with a butter knife instead of using a scalpel. Why go to *‘secular psychology’* when we have the ***REAL*** instruments of change?!”

Ladies, ***Psychology*** has been woven deeply into the fabric of our ***society, including the Church*** and continues to exist in our proud ***self-loving hearts***. We were born *self-centered* and in pursuit of having our own way! We don’t have to stop for long to think of a little child who doesn’t get what she/he wants! ***What have your responses and ATTITUDES been lately in light of your circumstances?*** Has your **JOY** been attached to what God is doing? (1Peter 1:3-9)

We must remember as children of God, we have been **BORN-AGAIN** and are to pursue ***DELIGHTING*** in ***HIM*** and ***HIS WISDOM,*** *not* man’s wisdom! Ladies, let’s continue to ask the Lord by the enablement and energy of *His Spirit* to continue to memorize His Word during our book study and to ***daily*** *‘PUT ON’*:

A heart ***ATTITUDE of SURRENDER*** (Romans 12:1-2) --Introduction

A heart ***ATTITUDE of DEVOTION*** (John 14:6/ Daniel 1:8/ Daniel 4:37) --Chapter 1

A heart ***ATTITUDE of SELFLESS HUMILITY*** (Philippians 2:3-5) --Chapter 2

A heart ***ATTITUDE of SUBMISSION***: to Christ (Colossians 2:8) --Chapter 3 (Part 1)

 and to His Word (Psalm 119:128) --Chapter 3 (Part 2)

Joyfully learning alongside of you, Christyn