

October 2007 Pastor's Pen

An Awesome Guard Duty

What is it like to guard the president or the US capital? What kind of security do they have at the Pentagon, Fort Knox or electric nuclear reactors? A good security system I hope!

The importance of a person or situation determines to what extent we guard and protect it or them. On a more every-day level, we diligently guard our family – children, grandchildren, our spouse, etc. On a personal level, we guard ourselves by wearing seat belts and making sure that we don't eat contaminated or defiled foods.

What is the most vital guard duty for an individual? Yet, this guard duty is often not even considered and terrible damage happens to the soul. The Bible instructs us to *"Keep [guard] thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."* (Proverbs 4:23)

Here are three reasons for fiercely guarding our soul.

First, we need to protect our soul from corruption because this inner sanctum is the real person. A person is what they are on the inside. What they think and meditate on is their essence – not their looks, intelligence or personality. *"For as [a man] thinketh in his heart, so is he:"* (Proverbs 23:7)

Secondly, the motions of the inner life are the beginning of all actions. We eventually do what we think about. No one suddenly falls into sin without having fallen into that sin first in their heart. *"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:"* (Matthew 15:19)

Finally, the soul is the target of the devil and the battleground of the soul. Satan seeks to take our hearts and minds captive. If he has that he has it all. Our whole lives are blessed or cursed by whom and what controls the control room of our existence. *"...; for out of it [the heart] are the issues of life."* (Proverbs 4:23)

Just as we would never allow filth and defilement into our digestive tract, so let's just as diligently guard our spiritual/emotional/intellectual tract. Do you leave your inner sanctum exposed to all sorts of corruption from the media and this world system? Is our thought life undirected and allowed to wander into debasing regions?

May we ever carefully guard our hearts and steadily turn away from those things that would grieve our Lord and weaken our spiritual life.

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