

MCD Just Checking In #37 Keep Keeping Pilgrim's Process
Psalm 39:12 "Hear my prayer, O Lord... for I am a "pilgrim" with You..."

Are you a keeper or a thrower? I am a thrower! I love throwing stuff out!! I awoke this AM to the lovely sound of a big garbage truck out front and rejoiced with relief . going.. going.. gone! YES!

But, in defense of the keepers among us, there are some things we are commanded to keep forever. Let's talk about it.

KEEP THE HEART

Pr 4:23 Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life. The inner life is not disposable. Attitudes, motives and desires must be guarded. For only when the heart is guarded can truth be retained.

KEEP THE GOSPEL

Lu 8:15 "...the good ground are those who, having heard the word ...,keep it and bear fruit with patience. To obtain knowledge of the Word is essential, but insufficient. We must also retain it and act on it. To keep the word is to have it rooted deep in the soil of our characters and souls. (*Joh 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.*)

2Ti 1:14 That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.

KEEP A CLEAN CONSCIENCE

1Ti 1:19 keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith.

1Co 5:8 ... let us keep the feast...with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Though we are sinners, we are forgiven sinners who are called to live in sincerity and truth with a clean conscience towards God and men. There is no single sin that need conquer us and no need to live with a guilty conscience and a defeated soul. God has given us His Word, His Spirit, His blood, and His people to strengthen, guide and help us grow in holiness and truth.

KEEP A BLAMELESS PATH

Prov 23:19 Listen, my son, and be wise, and keep your heart on the right path.

1 Tim 5:22 ...keep yourself pure Though it is the blood of Jesus alone that cleanses us, we are responsible to make good and godly decisions to resist temptation and to avoid sin in mind, word and deed.

KEEP UNITY WITH FELLOW BELIEVERS

Eph 4:3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Heb 13:1 Keep on loving each other as brothers. We are not commanded to create unity, since unity has already been created by God Himself. The Spirit has forged genuine unity among believers. We are commanded to keep it. To do whatever it takes to demonstrate that unity by loving, praying, giving, listening, forgiving, forbearing, respecting, and sharing with each other. We must not allow our God given unity to slip.

KEEP IN CLOSE FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

1Jo 5:21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

Jude 1:21 ...keep yourselves in the love of God,

This world system in which we live is dirty, deceptive, dark, divisive, and destructive. Only the cleaning of His blood, the truth of His Person, the Light of His Word, the unity of His Spirit and the salvation provided by His Son can bring us safely home.

And He willō

So, go ahead and throw out some junk! But never, ever discard these treasures we are called to keep forever.

Self Check Questions:

1. How does my heart tend to wander? Envy, covetousness, anger, lust, resentment, pride, stubbornness, self pity?
2. What am I doing to retain the purity of the gospel in my own heart and teaching?
3. What causes me the greatest struggle with a guilty conscience?
4. What sinful pathways am I most tempted by? How can I do better at avoiding them?
5. Have I been a cause of disunity among my brothers? What can I do to be honest and still a contributor to unity?
6. What idols do I face in life? How can I keep myself in God's love? (Doesn't God love us no matter what?)

For Further Study: (NIV) Deut 4:2; 5:29; 8:2; 13:4; Josh 22:5; 1 Kgs 8:23; 1 Chron 29:18; Psalm 19:13; 34:13; 121; 141:3; Prov 4:21; 23:19; Isa 26:3-4; Matt 24:42; 25:13; Rom 12:11; Gal 5:25; 1 Tim 6:14; Heb 13:1, 5; James 1:27; John 17:11

%Keeper of my soul, give me strength to keep Your commandments, Your priorities, Your pathway of truth and grace. I rely on Your keeping power to sustain and preserve me all my journey long. You alone are the source of keeping power that will enable me to keep to the path, keep the truth, keep on loving, keep on living my life for You, with You, in You. I gladly release all the things I cannot keep in the glad assurance that the things worth keeping I will never, ever lose. Keep me close to You. I ask in the Name of Him who prayed that You would keep me in Your own name forever, Amen+

Remember, you are very special to us and are praying for you continually. Living with leaving in view.... Jn 9:4
Ron & Val

Seeing The Invisible, embracing The Unapproachable, declaring The Unexplainable, changed by The Immutable, running after The Irresistible with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows, spending our time on eternity, owning nothing yet possessing everything that matters and lasts. We are Pilgrims in Paradox. Welcome to THE JOURNEY.