

1 CHRONICLES 28:9

“And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve Him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever.”



Time to get in shape. If life is a treadmill, we have stepped off of 2021 now. Do you have a New Year's plan of getting back into shape? I used to have a membership at a gym of no judgment.

Life is a riddle, existence is a treadmill. We ask clarifying questions, “What is the purpose of it all? What's the point?” The answer to the riddle of life, the finding of peace and purpose, demands supreme wisdom. It has something to do with what is inside.

The lessons of that first anointing, we can tell, stayed with King David. He remembered that the Lord looks at the heart.

By this time, the end of 1 Chronicles, David was ripe in years and richly blessed with God's gifts. He outlined the life that is supremely wise. Solomon was about to take over the government and the plans for God's temple. Solomon stood to gain that incredible wisdom we associate with his name.

This is especially appropriate as we dwell on our baptisms & approach the table. You're preparing to step into God's presence. You receive His supreme assurance for life and eternity. You seek to overcome the distractions of life and concentrate on your most pressing problem, your relationship with God.

May God help us prepare this hour, plan for a life of wisdom, and give us His grace to open our ears.

THE LORD READS HEARTS INSIDE-OUT

1. So seek the Lord inside-out

“The LORD searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts.” This sounds so much like, *“Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”* That truth should stir us all to live in line with our hearts.

- God knows all things.
- But God not only knows; He searches all hearts.
- He not only can know if he wants, but he searches it out in the character, the soul of every human being.
- ... *But the Lord tests the hearts, Proverbs 17:3.*

Dear fellow redeemed, remember this inescapable search of God in your heart. That search has turned you inside out at every step of your life journey.

- What has God found in you?
- The Searcher of hearts finds deep corners and much more.
- But after the way of the world, we give in to our instincts and desires.
- Surely thinking of God as the “Searcher of Hearts” isn’t reassuring. May it arouse in us a genuine horror of what He discovers.

The Searcher isn’t done when He’s found sin; the punishment is just as certain as the search.

- What can we do? How do we stand before Him?
- Seek the Lord.
- Seek the Lord and demand to know His heart inside-out. Seek Him in every corner, nook, and cranny. Seek Him in His Word and sacrament.

2. The search for the Lord has a right-side up

God may read you inside-out, backwards and forwards. But He also still pleads for you.

- Today, you hear His voice. *“This is my Son, whom I love.”*
- Recognize His blessing, **“If you seek him, he will be found by you.”**
- What promise, forgiveness, and peace there is in, *“If you seek Him, He will be found by you”!*
- Where is He? How do we chase the universe to find Him?
- God doesn’t set traps on the path or give us an experimental road; *His road is sure.*

But it should be a search.

- We want to find ourselves coming to God's light, not keeping our distance.
- In our sacrament, let's not participate in an empty exercise of custom.
- We seek to be welcomed into heaven by faith in Jesus; in His name,
Amen.

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**