

The Bent of the Needle

by Thomas Brooks

A true Christian's heart will always be bent towards God, even if they have moments of sinful joggings.

Scripture: Romans 6:1, 1 John 3:6

Topics: "Holiness", "Spiritual State"

Description

Thomas Brooks emphasizes that a true state of grace cannot coexist with a continuous course of sin. He explains that while even the best saints may falter in specific actions, it is the overall direction of one's life--whether towards holiness or wickedness--that defines their spiritual state. Brooks illustrates that just as a compass needle may waver but ultimately points north, a genuine Christian's heart is inclined towards God, Christ, and holiness despite occasional missteps. He cautions against judging one's spiritual condition based solely on isolated actions, urging believers to consider the trajectory of their lives.

Transcript

"No one who lives in Him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen Him or known Him." 1 John 3:6

A trade, a course of sin--is inconsistent with a state of grace. The best saints have sadly miscarried as to particular actions; but he who shall judge of a man's spiritual state by particular acts, though notoriously bad, will certainly condemn, where God acquits. We must always distinguish between some single evil actions, and a serious course of evil actions. It is not this or that particular evil action--but a continued course of evil actions--which denominates a man wicked. Just

so, it is not this or that particular holy act--but a continued course of holy actions--which denominates a man holy.

Every man is--as his course is. If his course is holy--the man is holy. If his course is wicked--the man is wicked.

No man ought to conclude, because of some particular good actions--that his spiritual state is good.

No man ought to conclude, because of some particular sinful actions--that his spiritual state is bad.

A course of sinning is not consistent with a course of godliness. Though the needle of the seaman's compass may jog this way and that way--yet the bent of the needle will still be northward. Just so, though a Christian may have his particular sinful joggings this way or that way--yet the bent of his heart will still be . . .

God-wards,

Christ-wards,

heaven-wards,

holiness-wards.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/thomas-brooks/the-bent-of-the-needle/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net