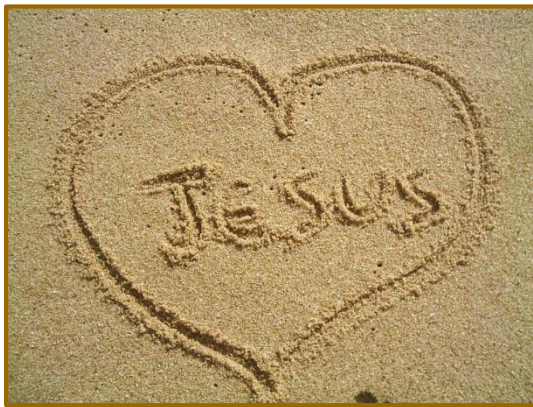


Christ's Home in Your Heart

Imagine that you purchased a house and the previous owner gave you the keys to all the rooms except one; he reserved the right to come and go as he pleased in that one room.

That would not be an acceptable arrangement.

But that scenario brings to mind how the founder of the Salvation Army, Gen. William Booth, answered Queen Victoria when she asked the secret of his ministry: "I guess the reason is because God has all there is of me."



The late Robert Boyd Munger, a Presbyterian minister and professor at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, wrote a widely used sermon entitled *My Heart, Christ's Home*.

Written in 1954, when Munger was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Berkeley, California, the classic sermon has been quoted and distributed by numerous clergy, including his friend, evangelist Billy Graham. About 10 million copies have been printed over the years.

Munger rooted his sermon, which struck a chord with many Christians, in biblical text, including Revelation 3:20, in which Christ says, "Behold I stand at the door and knock: If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come unto him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

In the sermon, the pastor related: "One evening I invited Jesus Christ into my heart ... He came into the darkness of my heart and turned on the light. He built a fire on the hearth and banished the chill. He started music where there had been stillness and He filled the emptiness with His own loving, wonderful fellowship."

As host, Munger described leading Christ through the figurative library, dining room, drawing room, workshop, rumpus room and locked secret closet of his heart. The guest helps the host sweep away all the clutter keeping him from being a good Christian – trashy literature, worldly goods and gluttonous fare, unsavory friendships and sleazy amusements, ineptness and old hatreds.

At the end of the sermon, the grateful host signs over the title of his heart/home to his guest for safekeeping and vows to remain with Christ as "houseboy and friend."

(more)

If your heart were divided into rooms, is there any one to which you would not give Christ the key? Or, like William Booth, does He have all there is of you?

When God chose a man to succeed Saul as king of Israel, He chose David. And the primary reason given in Scripture is that David was a man after God's own heart. That means that God would be just as comfortable in the house of David's heart as in His own. No surprises, no dark corners, no hidden passageways not revealed to the light.

Our goal should be to create the kind of heart-home that Jesus would love to come to – a heart like God's own.

God is still looking today for hearts that are loyal to Him. Has He found yours? It's important in the mission to which we are called – personally and professionally!

For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him (2 Chronicles 16:9 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter

