

❖ **Consider the day (18)**

- The Lord speaks forth a message to mark a turning point: **from this day on** ... He wants them to take seriously this moment of change: **think carefully** ... God uses the restoration of the Temple's foundation to illustrate what's changed spiritually for the people ... Today they're His reconciled people ... **Before one stone was placed on another**, what was their condition ... They're defiled ... All the **works of their hands; even what they offer is defiled** ... *Why are they defiled* – consider His word

❖ **Consider the Word (11-13)**

- The sacrificed meat can make the garment holy, but the garment can't make other things holy ... Because it's not holy in itself; it's made holy by something else ... Defilement can be easily transmitted ... When the people return, as they begin to rebuild, **they're still defiled** – meaning, they're still not in a right relationship with the Lord ... Because of this, **everything they do is also defiled** – not acceptable ... Why – because they remain unreconciled to God ... No amount of good works can undo this

❖ **Consider the relationship (14-17)**

- Good works flow from a right relationship ... If the relationship is tainted, so are the good works ... **CALVIN: NOTHING CAN FLOW FROM AN IMPURE AND POLLUTED FOUNTAIN BUT WHAT IS IMPURE AND POLLUTED** ... Their relationship with God lay in ruin, just like the temple ... Remember **ch1**: the things of God aren't their main concern ... **They're in the land but they haven't returned** ... **ONE DOESN'T BECOME HOLY SIMPLY BY ENGAGING IN RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES** ... *This people honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me* (Is29:13)
- **CALVIN: CLEANSING OF THE HEART MUST COME FIRST IF THE WORKS WHICH WE PERFORM ARE TO BE KINDLY RECEIVED BY GOD.. OUR HEARTS ARE CLEANSED BY FAITH ALONE. IT FOLLOWS THEN THAT THE FIRST FOUNDATION OF WORKS IS TRUE AND LIVING FAITH.** ... This whole time the Lord is calling His people to return to Him in faith ... Faith that's living and active ... **Faith that has a heartbeat**

❖ **Consider the Lord (18-19)**

- The Lord reconciles the people to Himself ... **By grace through faith** ... Cleansing of the heart ... Reconciliation of the people ... **From this day on I will bless you** ... They're called to walk by faith according to His word ... According to who His promises ... As they walk by faith, they'll see evidence of His blessing and faithfulness – the seed sprouting up ... The new crop will give a greater harvest than the last ... Because the Lord will see to it ... **God plants the seed of faith within** ... Each step of faith causes growth ... Because the Lord sees that it does – **Ep1:3, 1Pt1:3-5, 2Pt1:3-4**
- This message of the Lord reveals the greater message found in Jesus ... Foundation of your salvation is the **finished work of Jesus Christ on your behalf** ... Because of Him **you're forever justified before God and with God** ... Because of Him you can live as God calls you to live ... **He has made perfect forever those He is making perfect day by day** (Hb10:14, my paraphrase)
- The foundation is set; now continue to build ... Consider what the Lord has done and what the Lord now wants to do