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## A Needed Change

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I will openly admit to you that I do not change my oil every 3000 miles or 3 months. I know the problems that may come from my unwillingness to spend a little now and perhaps get a little dirty, but I "just don't have the time to do it!" Plus, I don't see or hear any problems from under the hood, so everything must be alright, right?

Like our automobile, we may show few signs of fatigue or wear on the outside, but are in desperate need of a change on the inside. While our physical heart does its job of pumping blood throughout our body, our "inward man" (2 Cor. 4:16) may be in desperate need of change. The Bible student realizes that inspiration speaks about the heart often. Most of the time it's not the organ that pumps blood, but rather "the inner self that thinks, feels, and decides" (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary).

When we see an automobile (especially the classic muscle cars), we cannot be sure what size engine is under the hood. If an automobile is "stock" (original) than a car enthusiast may know the size or horsepower. People are different. To a certain extent, much of what is on the inside is recognized by the things seen on the outside. Inspiration informs us that the heart (inner man) defines the person (Prov. 23:7). Our Lord tells us that "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things" (Mt. 12:34-35). When asked why His disciples fail to wash their hands before eating, Jesus answered "out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man" (Mt. 15:20).

While preaching the things of Jesus to the Jews from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, Paul said that "the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted..." (Isa. 6:9-10; Acts 28:27). The heart must understand and be converted! Therefore, there may just be a

"need for change" before one can have the kind of faith or belief to bring one closer to righteousness (Rom. 10:10, 17).

Are you due for a needed change? It would be foolish to wait until the pangs of our automobile engines were too loud to tolerate to change the oil. By then, it's usually much too late. If your heart (inner self that thinks, feels, and decides) is due for a tune up, it would be foolish for you to wait for a more convenient day (Acts 24:25) to respond, for that day may never come (Jas. 4:14).