

The Biblical Concept of the Heart

Introduction

- A. Modern psychology has drawn our attention to man's inner, hidden consciousness. The books on peace of mind, the tests which have been devised to evaluate our minds and potentialities for good and evil, and the status of the psychologist and psychiatrist in our culture all point to the realization that man is more than body and that there is more than that which meets the eye.
- B. The Bible has always placed the emphasis upon the "inner man". (Eph. 3:16) God made us in His own image. He created us as a rational, moral and in particular a spiritual person. This is what God means by referring to the "heart" of man.

I. The Importance of the Heart.

- A. The condition of the heart determines one's character and actions, Matt.2:34,35.

0 generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? For 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.

- B. Salvation is characterized as a change in the heart of man, Romans 2:29.

But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit and not in the letter, whose praise is not of man, but of God.

- C. Salvation is accompanied by believing with the heart, Romans 10:9,10.

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

II. The Sinful Condition of the Heart.

- A. The extent of sinfulness, capable to man, is beyond knowledge, Jer. 17:9.

The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, who can know it?

- B. The sinful heart is the source sin and this defiles the man, Mark 7:21-23.

For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile the man.

- C. A continual sinful choice will train the heart in wickedness, II Peter 2:14.

Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin, beguiling unstable souls, an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children.

III. The Warnings Regarding the Heart

- A. The heart is where one will backslide first, Proverbs 14:14.

The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways, and a good shall be satisfied from himself.

- B. The heart is known to God and this determines reward and judgment, Jer. 17:10

I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways and according to the fruit of his doings.

- C. The heart is where sin is first committed, Matthew 5:28.

But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

- D. The heart and it's condition makes one slow to believe God, Luke 24:25.

Then He said unto them, O fools and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken.

- E. The heart is vulnerable to Satanic influence, Acts 5:3,4.

But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Spirit . * • why has thou conceived this things in thine heart?

IV. The Exhortations Regarding the Heart.

- A. We are to keep our hearts diligently, Proverbs 4:23.

Keep thy heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life.

- B. We are to do the will of God from the heart, Ephesians 6:6.

Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers, but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

- C. We are to protect our hearts from rejecting the truth, Hebrews 3:7,8.

Wherefore (as the Holy Spirit saith, Today if ye will hear His voice, Harden not your hearts (Note Romans 1:18)

V. The Provision, of God for our Hearts*

- A. We can have a "new heart" in the experience of the new birth, Ezekiel 36:26.

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you, And I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh and I will give you an heart of flesh.

- B. We can have the peace of God to keep our hearts, Phil. 4:6,7.

Be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests, be made known unto God* And the peace of God which, pasaeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Conclusion: Let's pray with David, "Create in me a clean heart, O God"
Psalms 51:10

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