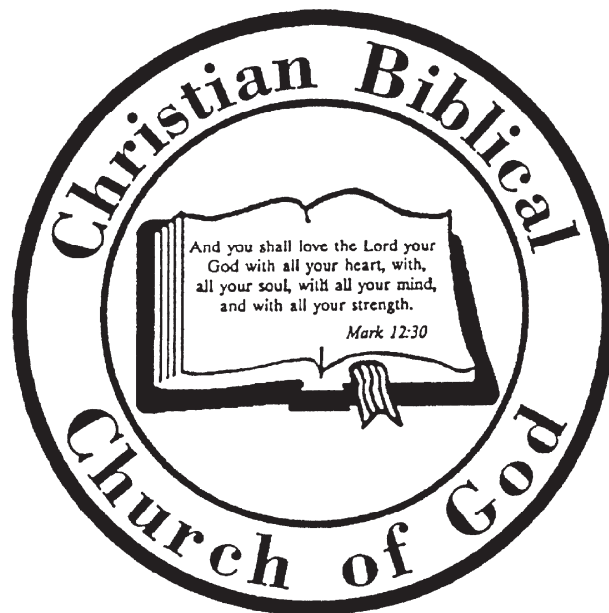


The Heart-Mind Connection



Transcript Book

By Fred R. Coulter

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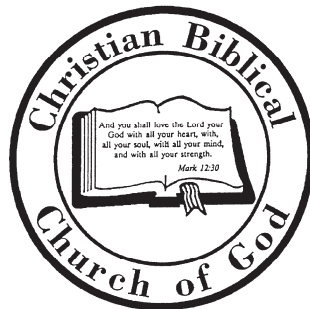
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The Heart-Mind Connection

Series of 6 sermons by Fred R. Coulter



Signature

Date

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The Heart/Mind Connection

Foreword

This book consists of transcripts of six sermons that a minister of Jesus Christ for over fifty year, Mr. Fred R. Coulter, gave on the spirit in man. Upon finishing the study of this sermon transcript book the reader should understand what mankind as a whole does not know—namely that there is a spirit in man.

The first transcript, “The Heart / Mind Connection I – The Heart, the Mind and the Spirit in Man,” speaks of there being a consciousness that we are aware of and that there is a consciousness that we are not aware of. The consciousness that we are not aware of is referred to as the emotional brain. Noted is that ultimately, everything in our lives hinges on our emotional responses to specific events.

The second transcript, “The Heart / Mind Connection II – Change Your Heart by Repentance,” speaks of the heart, not the brain, as what causes the whole body to respond as far as the endocrine and hormonal glands are concerned. It is so important to realize that things which people do and say do affect our heart and mind one way or the other. Much is said about the hardening of the heart. Hardening of the heart occurs when people sin and they refuse to admit that they’re wrong.

The third transcript, “The Heart / Mind Connection III – Penalties for a Hardened Heart,” speaks of what the Bible means when it speaks of the heart. Namely, the deepest part of the mind, is what the Bible refers to as the heart. Given is a warning that one needs to stay away from evil because evil has a profound effect on the thinking part of your heart. Much is spoken about this process of the hardening of the heart within people.

The fourth transcript, “The Heart / Mind Connection IV – Turn to God with All Your Heart,” covers how important it is to guard the door of your mind—to actively reject evil thoughts or emotions entering one’s mind. Everything that one experiences, heard, and seen has lodged in one’s mind. God’s purpose for mankind is that, under the New Covenant, for the knowledge of God to be written in the mind of people. Covered in detail is the most important thing in the lives of men—that of men loving God.

The fifth transcript, “The Heart / Mind Connection V – Qualities of the Heart of David #1,” speaks much upon God’s attitude towards men, His attitude towards rituals, towards the thoughts of men. Noted is that people need to understand that there is nothing great that we can, of ourselves, do for God because everything we do is done with what God has created. The thing that we can do for God, that is within our ability which will please God, is to obey God. Noted also is that God wishes to help those who obey God—but they have to come to God, to earnestly seek God, and ask for God’s help. All things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to God’s purpose.

The sixth transcript, “The Heart / Mind Connection VI – Qualities of the Heart of David #2,” speaks of how all of the issues of life and death and choices before God come from the innermost part of the mind. Noted is that only God can bring to the heart understanding concerning the covenant of God.

Upon finishing this book the reader will understand that God can deliver from all circumstances. And if one seeks God earnestly, God will intervene in that person's life, to bring about God's Will for that person – that is what is the best answer to that person's prayer.

A special thanks goes to Bonnie and Prentice Orswell, Laila Patterson and Nancy Spaller for producing the transcripts.

The Heart/Mind Connection I

The Heart, the Mind and the Spirit in Man

Fred R. Coulter

{transcriber's note: article being read is from an unknown source}

The heart keeps the body working as one harmonious whole. The other half makes up a very large unmediated neuro-connection with the emotional brain in our head and carries on a 24 hour a day dialog between the heart and the brain that you are not even aware of.

That's quite a thing! How does it work?

The heart responds to messages sent to it from the emotional brain, which has been busy monitoring the exterior environment of dynamic state such as the emotions, the autoimmune system, guiding behavior, contributing to our sense of identity. The emotional brain makes a qualitative evaluation of our experience in this world and sends the information instant by instant down to the heart and returns. The heart exhorts the brain to make the appropriate response. Of course, all of this is done on a non-verbal level.

That's why it's so easy to get people involved with their emotions the wrong way, because there is this constant connection that is going on.

In other words, the responses makes the heart affect the entire human system. Meanwhile biophysicists have discovered that the heart is also a very powerful electromagnetic generator. It generates an electromagnetic field that encompasses the body and extends out anywhere from eight to twelve feet from it.

It is so powerful that you can take an electrocardiogram reading from as far away as three feet from the body. The field the heart produces is holographic, meaning that you can read it from any point on the body and from any point within the field.

No matter how microscopic the sample is, you can receive the information of the entire field. The intriguing thing is how profoundly this electromagnetic field affects the brain. All indications are that it furnishes the whole radial wave spectrum from which the brain draws it's material

to create our internal experience of the world.

This can have very profound effects. We'll talk about this later.

Perhaps most importantly, we now know that the radio spectrum of the heart is profoundly affected by our emotional response to our world. Our emotional response changes the heart's electromagnetic spectrum, which is what the brain feeds on.

Ultimately, everything in our lives hinges on our emotional responses to specific events.

Then it gets into how it affects children, but it also affects adults in quite a similar way. I'll save that one for how it affects the children. Suffice it to say, children operate on an emotional level. Therefore, all of the things that happen to them when they are growing up on an emotional level from the outside, not only the relationship of mother and father and the caring that they receive from the mother and father, but also all of the things that they are exposed to such as television, video games and various other things like this that have direct input into the mind.

I'll talk about it a little bit later on when I get to the section on children. But they have it now that they specifically design the television programs to stimulate an emotional response from the children, and also from the adults, too. When you sit in front of a television screen—or a computer screen can have the same effect—for hours then your whole system kind of shuts down.

What they have done is elicited shock responses. That is designed to shock the senses on an emotional basis so that you will come out of the doldrums of shutting down because of watching too much TV.

Have you ever noticed that if you sit and watch TV for a long time, you get up and you're almost 'brain dead'? What is happening is that the electromagnetics coming out of the tubes interferes with the electromagnetics of the body and it creates this doldrums that takes place. So, they need to shock them and stimulate them. This is why you see so many children today that can't control themselves. They've been shocked and stimulated deliberately so much that they can control themselves.

This is what is wrong when they get into school. When they get into school and instead of saying to shut down all television, all of this nonsense, here are the rules you will obey. **NO!** Especially in the grade schools and junior highs, they have too many emotional women teachers who can't even handle their own lives. What they do is get the children on Ritalin, which is a derivative of cocaine! There's so much of it that they're even thinking of putting a medical station in all school so that they can drug the children with Ritalin, inspect them for venereal diseases and provide them with birth control pills and condoms.

That's just a little bit. I didn't want to get into that much about it with the children, but this is what has happened. You can see the same thing happening with adults; exactly the same thing.

There is good news on the other side. That is, if you stop all these outside influences coming in on you, and you might try it. Since I've been preaching and thinking on it, I'm watching a whole lot less television than used to. As a matter of fact, I got criticized for saying the kids watch too much TV and I did this on a video. Some people were watching and said, 'Here you're saying it on a video and it's an impersonal way, therefore, take us off your mailing list because you're a hypocrite.'

They fail to see that there's a good use of video, a good use of audio, a good use of these things. What I was talking about was the uses that are no good. But it shows an emotional reaction by the person not thinking it through. *A little stinkin' thinkin'!*

Here's good news for all of us who are over 20-years-old.

"Brain May Grow New Cells Daily by Nicholas Wade Oct. 15, 1999)
{nytimes.com/1999/10/15/us/brain-may-grow-new-cells-daily.html}

In a new challenge to the longstanding belief that adults never generate new brain cells, biologists at Princeton University have found that thousands of freshly born neurons arrive each day in the cerebral cortex...

right here at the front

...the outer rind of the brain where higher intellectual functions and personality are centered.

which is good news

If the new brain cells, or neurons, are involved in memory and learning --

perhaps with each day's batch of new cells recording that day's experiences...

This is why it's important to get the proper amount of rest. This is why in brain washing that one of the things that they do is deprive you of sleep. They do it over and over again so that your brain won't function. It is all deliberate to do that.

...scientists will have to make major revisions in the longtime view that the adult brain's neurons are static in number and that memory is stored only in the way they interconnect.

No! Memory can be added to every day! Also, this is good thing to understand. Not only can you overcome them, but you can change the way that you think over a period of time. You can overcome thought patterns of the past. And with God's Spirit, this shows that God has allowed for conversion and change, and a whole spectrum of what God has created us for.

In addition, if the brain's cells are in constant turnover, as the new finding suggests, physicians may discover ways to use the brain's natural regeneration system for replacing cells that are lost in diseases of aging.

...Dr. Fernando Nottebohm of Rockefeller University, who showed that canaries grow new neurons to learn new songs, and recent studies showing that new cells are formed in the hippocampus, a brain region where initial memories of faces and places are formed.

They found that a stream of new neurons were generated in the monkeys' brains in a zone just above the brain's fluid-filled central chambers. This zone was recently identified by other scientists as the home of the brain's stem cells, the source cells from which an organ is replenished.

The new neurons migrated toward the cortex, matured and sent out axons to make connections with other brain cells, the Princeton biologists found.

The researchers looked for new neurons in four areas of the cortex, and found them in three areas where memories are known to be stored: the frontal cortex, used for decision-making, and two areas on the side of the brain used for visual recognition....

You think about that in relationship to all the visual things that we have in use today.

Whatever the new cells are doing in the cortex, they affect regions of the brain that

are central to human thought and identity. The Princeton work, said Dr. Ronald D. G. McKay, an expert on brain stem cells at the National Institutes of Health, "places new neurons in the region of the brain involved in the highest level of personality: it's the frontal cortex that is important in determining who you are in a very human way."

Dr. Gould said it was possible that the new neurons arriving in the cortex would be particularly sensitive to recording information for a certain period while they matured.

"They would become integrated in the circuitry and represent the information being learned at that particular time," she said....

Whenever you apply yourself to learn, the brain is made to do so.

In other words, the conveyor belt of new neurons might record successive days' experiences almost like a moving tape.

That's why with certain experiences when you have such an emotional response, such as an accident, you can remember it very clearly, because it is indelibly put upon your brain.

Now let's something in the Bible concerning the heart and the mind, and let's understand the great connection that there is between the heart and the brain and:

- how that interacts with the spirit of man
- how God looks at it
- how Satan looks at it
- what happens when there is sin
- what happens when there is righteousness

this really shows us that

- we can change
- we can grow
- we can overcome

with the Spirit of God!

Let's look at something that is very profound that Paul wrote. I think that when new thing like this come along it helps to give us added meaning to verses that we already know.

Remember that every day *your mind is automatically set to begin a renewal process!* This is very important in your thinking. But for conversion Paul says:

Romans 12:2: "Do not conform yourselves to this world... [to the world's way; to the world's

way of thinking] ...but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind...** God has made it possible to be renewed. But now *with the Spirit of God, it can renewed even greater!*

"...in order that you may prove..." (v 2). You ***must use*** your intellect, your emotion, everything about you to prove; that is using the Word of God to do so.

"...what is well-pleasing and good, and the perfect will of God" (v 2). *That's why God made us the way that we are, so that we can have this connection with Him! So that we can receive the Spirit of God!*

The heart is also involved, and the heart response is very important.

1-Sam. 16 is the account where David was selected to be king over Israel. Let's look at what God told Samuel. Samuel came down and Jesse, David's father, was all in trepidation and said, 'Do you come in peace?' *Yeah, I come in peace.* He probably thought that Samuel was coming to bring some judgment on him, or something.

1-Samuel 16:6: "And it came to pass as they came in, he saw Eliab and said, 'Surely the LORD'S anointed is before the LORD.' But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his face, nor on his height because I have refused him, for **the LORD does not see as man sees**; for man looks on the outward appearance, but **the LORD looks on the heart**'" (vs 6-7).

We know that David was called *a man after God's heart*. In another place it says that David's *heart was perfect with the Lord!* That's interesting, because you can have your heart response perfect with God, howbeit, you have a sinful nature by nature. That's what God looks to.

A lot of people, because they're trying to overcome—which they need to—but they get the focusing on all of the emotional down and negative things, and you wonder if you're ever accepted of God, because He wants you to be perfect. The truth is, you can—through Christ—be perfect in heart and also in mind. That's all a part of what we call *conversion. God looks up the heart!*

Let's see concerning *the spirit in man*. So, you have the heart and you have the brain. You have the brain that produces the neurons and is the very seat of your intellect. You have the heart that is the seat of your emotions. Then there's the *spirit in man* that gives man consciousness and choice that animals do not have.

Job 32:6—I like Elihu who was quite a young man: "And Elihu the son of Barachel the

Buzite answered and said, ‘I *am* young, and you *are* very old; therefore, I was afraid, and dared not show you my opinion. I said, “The aged should speak... [they have white hair] ... and the multitude of years should teach wisdom.” But *there is* a spirit in man and the inspiration of the Almighty gives them understanding” (vs 6-8).

After sitting there and listening to all of this going on, and the arguments back and forth, he finally got the exploding point:

Verse 18: “For I am full of the matter; the spirit within me constrains me”—*I must speak!*

Let’s see that God is the One Who forms this spirit within us. This is the *spirit of man*, which is given to us, I believe, right at conception. I have suspected that for a long time, but now I can say that I believe that it is without necessarily being speculation. I think that this information that we have gives added validity to the fact that in order for a human being to be a human being, ***that spirit has to be given at conception!***

Zechariah 12:1: “The burden of the Word of the LORD for Israel. Thus says the LORD, who stretches forth the heavens, and lays the foundation of the earth, **and forms the spirit of man within him.**” *God is the One Who does it!*

God wants to have a counterpart for that spirit being His Holy Spirit, so that when you receive the Spirit of God, *His begetting*, it unites with your mind and you become literally a new creature, though you may not necessarily feel it right away. ***But through the process of growing and overcoming, you are to be created in Christ Jesus!***

I think James is the clincher in proving that the spirit has to be given at the time of conception, because ***with conception there is life!*** It is a new life, and it is so profound that when the seed of the father unites with the egg of the mother the egg puts an invisible cast iron shield around it so that it cannot be further penetrated by any more seed. ***It’s a miraculous thing that takes place!***

James 2:26: “For as the **body without the spirit is dead**, in the same way also, faith without works is dead.”

In order for that new life to have life *it’s got to have the spirit of man right at the instant of conception!* That’s what makes that a human fetus at that particular point. It has to have life.

Let’s carry this one step further. God also looks at the heart. ***God proves the heart!*** So, now we have the brain with ***the spirit of man*** and let’s connect that with the heart, which is the seat of the

emotion. It also has neuro cells in it just like the brain. That’s amazing, to think that the heart has neuro cells just like the brain. You see the connection there!

I’m sure that that has a lot to do with health, health of the brain and the health of the heart, and the interconnection together. Not only the dietary things that God wants to have. But what we put in our mind greatly affects how we think, and our heart affects our mind.

I was amazed just looking up how many references there are to the heart. If you want a special Bible study that you can do on your own, look up all the references concerning heart.

Psalm 17:1: “Hear the right, O LORD; attend unto my cry; give ear unto my prayer, for it is not from **lips of deceit.**” In other words, his heart is right, his mind is right; you’re not saying one thing but thinking something else.

Verse 2: “Let my judgment come forth from Your presence; let Your eyes behold things that are upright. You have **tried my heart...** [that’s why David was a man after God’s heart] ... You have visited me in the night; You have tested me, and You shall find nothing; I have purposed *that* my mouth shall not transgress” (vs 2-3).

So, it shows the whole emotional inner action. I don’t know about you, but every once in a while I wake up and can’t sleep. I think of things, and I think that there’s a time when God deals with us in a special way at night that He doesn’t do at any other time. Why? *Because you’re not distracted by anything!* You can concentrate fully on what you’re thinking or meditating on; or whatever it is that you need to come to understand or that God wants you to understand or trying you for.

- God is the One Who judges the heart!
- God is the One Who judges the mind!
- God is the One Who judges the action as a result of the heart and mind!

Psalm 26:1: “Judge me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity. I have trusted also in the LORD without wavering. Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart” (vs 1-2).

There is something about the human mind as well as the heart that says *try my reins!* There’s another Psalm that says *in the nighttime He has tried my reins.* So, it’s really quite profound how God does that. I don’t know exactly how everything works, but God has a special way of keeping track of everyone.

Verse 3: “For Your loving kindness is

before my eyes; and I have walked in Your Truth.” This also gives us a hint how we can keep our heart right: *walking in the Truth and always having loving kindness before His eyes!*

In other words, the way that you overcome is constantly live under the grace of God. God’s grace is what inspires you to have the desire from the heart to overcome vs being carnal and wanting to conceal your faults and conceal the things that you do wrong. Therefore, you put up this lying front that no one can penetrate lest they find out what you’re really like.

With conversion it all changes, and it all becomes open before God. This is how it operates. It works quite a tremendous way.

In Jer. 17 we see the good and the ugly! There’s no *bad!* This is profound, because there are certain things that once you have done, you are never the same after that. There are quite a few life experiences that you go through where it will be a first time experience. When that happens you are never the same because something takes place in your heart.

Here’s what happens when people give themselves over to evil, and give themselves over to evil so much that there is absolutely nothing good.

Jeremiah 17:1: “The sin of Judah is engraved with a pen of iron, with the point of a diamond; **it is carved upon the tablet of their heart and upon the horns of your altars.**” There are some things that are so indelible.

We can say one thing was like that with the Apostle Paul when he persecuted the Church. *He never forgot it!* He was able to forget a lot of other things, because he said *forgetting the things that are behind and moving forward to the things that are before* (Philip 3).

Within each one of us there is perhaps one thing in our lives—maybe two or three—that have been indelibly etched upon our mind in a wrong way. Sometimes it takes years of God’s Holy Spirit, conversion, overcoming and the Word of God to begin to flush these out to where you want to have that removed from your heart. ***God will do that!***

Verse 5: “Thus says the LORD, ‘Cursed is the man who trusts in man, and makes flesh his arm, and whose heart departs from the LORD. For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when good comes. But he shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, *in* a salt land that is not inhabited’” (vs 5-6).

Here’s the contrast, the other, v 7: “Blessed

is the man who trusts in the LORD and whose hope is the LORD.” Why? *Because his heart is right with the Lord!*

Verse 8: “For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters; *it* sends out its roots by the river, and *it* shall not fear when the heat comes, but its foliage shall be green; and he is not worried in the year of drought, **nor will it cease from yielding fruit.**”

This is the positive aspect! This gives great encouragement that you can grow, change and overcome in spite of the fact that the human heart is very deceitful.

Verse 9: “The heart *is* deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, *I* try the reins, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings” (vs 9-10). *God is the One Who is going give the reward!*

Now let’s see how Satan works. Remember that the report talked about the electromagnetic field that is around human beings. It also said that many of the modern day implements that we have today interfere with that electromagnetic field. I think it can also interfere in such a way that it causes damage to the immune system; therefore, you are more susceptible to more diseases. They know that if you have a lot of radiology, which affects it, that you’re more susceptible to diseases because your immune system goes down.

But also, there is Satan who is called ‘the prince of the power of the air.’

Ephesians 2:1: “Now, you were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you walked in times past according to the course of this world, **according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working within the children of disobedience**” (vs 1-2).

The Greek there is very interesting. It is inner-working! So, Satan’s power is able to influence people in such a way that they may not even be aware of it. But they have to, first of all, give themselves over to the lust of the flesh and all of this, so that they make themselves open to it.

Verse 3: “Among whom also we all once had our conduct in the lusts of our flesh, doing the things willed by the flesh and by the mind, and were by nature *the* children of wrath, even as the rest of the world.”

This is something how Satan can influence! Think of how much he can do right now. I mean, in this room that we are sitting in right now today, if we had the various receivers here we could pick up

scores of radio stations, because the sound waves are coming in here. If we had the right kind of satellite dish we could pick up everything coming from Direct TV or others, and we could pick up anything we wanted to.

But we can't hear it and we can't see it because it's not on the frequency for the receptors. It is known that when people have had certain metal put in their teeth that they will actually pick up a radio station. They'll go along and hear a radio station. They think they're being 'bugged.'

There's equipment today that some of the unsavory agencies of the government—such as the CIA—use where they can take three different vehicles and triangle a particular house and they can send radio waves in there and they can actually get the outline of your body and see exactly what you're doing in the house. They've done this to try and track criminals to see what they are doing. *But that means they can do it to anybody!*

I saw on TV that it showed how there's a center somewhere in Washington, DC or Maryland, where they can track every single transaction everywhere in the world all at once. They can monitor all Internet activity in the world everywhere all at once.

The same way with television; they can put in a little teeny camera there and monitor whomever is sitting in front of it. It's also very important to understand that you've wanted to know how we're going to become 'enemies of the state.' *There you've got it!* They can monitor all phone calls. They pick up certain key words, and then it starts monitoring all the calls automatically, especially if it has to do with going against the President or plotting some thing like blowing something up.

We, as God's people, are going to be an easy target when the time comes! Right now we're hard to find, but we'll be an easy target then.

Let's look at some of the other negative things of the human heart and human nature. I am constantly amazed how the Bible is ancient but modern, which tells you that it's *eternal!* Why is it eternal? *Because it's from the Spirit of God!* So therefore, it is totally meaningful to us today, as it was to them in whatever age that they lived in.

We can receive new material such as I just read to you today in these reports, and it fits right in with what's in the Bible. There is no other book, no other literature where this is true. You can't say that of any other law book, novel, history book or any other thing.

About the only thing you can get from history is that it will probably repeat. But it's not like the Bible where it's up to the minute and it's meaningful, and tells us about the days that we are living in and ourselves.

(go to the next track)

Ecclesiastes 8:5: "Whoever keeps the commandment shall feel no evil thing; and a wise man's heart discerns both time and judgment.... [here's the good part] ...Because the word of a king *is* that which has power, who may say to him, 'What are you doing?' For he does not know what shall be; for who can tell him when it shall be?" (vs 5-7).

That's true today. We can 'see through a glass darkly' but we truly don't know.

Verse 8: "*There is* no man who has power over the wind to restrain the wind..." That's a profound statement! If you had power over the spirit to retain it, you wouldn't die. *The body without the spirit is dead!* If you had the power to retain the spirit you wouldn't die. *That's why no man has that power!*

"...nor power over the day of death; and *there is* no discharge from war... [it's going to be done] ...nor shall wickedness deliver those who are given to it. All this I have seen, and I gave my heart to every work that is done under the sun..." (vs 8-9).

What happened to Solomon's heart? *It said that his heart was not perfect like David's, his father!* He let wives and concubines lead his heart astray. He had so many experiences that he no longer understood right from wrong.

"...*There is* a time in which one man rules over another to his own hurt. And so I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the Holy place. And they were forgotten in the city where they had so done. This *is* also vanity. Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore, **the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil**" (vs 8-11).

It shows that the heart *can become set* to do evil and do the things that are wrong. Haven't we seen that with 'zipper gate' in Washington, DC? *Yes! The morals have gone down that much more, all because of the example of President Bill Clinton, and many other besides.*

Let's see what certain physical activities do to the heart. We'll show the whole flow of things, and what happens when people make the decision. It starts with the heart ***because their emotion is dictating to them*** that they need to be released from the restraints of God's Law.

When they follow their heart to do that, and begin rejecting God's way, here's what happens: *God also responds to them!*

Hosea 4:6: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you from being as a priest to Me. Since you have forgotten the Law of your God, I will also forget your children."

We're going to see, also, that the Law of God is very important to have in our heart. Let's see why it's so important. This is why Protestants cannot be truly converted. Protestants are 'anomians': *against law! Contrary to law!* They may be nice people, but even nice people, who have impeccable morals that really don't believe in God the way that God says that they ought to believe in Him, are in essence *atheists!* They are depending upon their own morality!

Here's what God wants, Hebrews 10:16: "This is the covenant that I will establish with them after those days," says the Lord, 'I will give My Laws into their hearts, and I will inscribe them in their minds.'" Isn't that interesting that it is in both places: *in the heart and in the mind!*

- in the mind it's intellect
- in the heart it's emotion

The proper response to emotion!

What was the proper response to emotion that Joseph showed when the wife of his master was trying to seduce him? *He ran away, because it was in his heart and in his mind!* So, with us!

Some things you can mentally say, 'Okay, forget it!' Other things emotionally you have to say, 'Run! Get out of here! Be gone!' *because you're going to be trapped!* So, it's in both places, in the heart and in the mind! Now, let's see what happens:

Hosea 4:6: "...Since you have forgotten the Law of your God, I will also forget your children." Is that happening today in this world? *Yes! No question about it!*

Verse 7: "As they were increased... [Have we had a population explosion? *Yes!*] ...so they sinned against Me. I will change their glory into shame. They eat up the sin of My people, and they set their heart on their iniquity" (vs 7-8).

Tie that in with Jer. 17:1, where instead of having the Laws of God engraved and inscribed upon our heart, now the sin is engraved and inscribed upon the heart. What happens when that takes place? *It's awfully hard for them to even understand what's right or wrong!*

Verse 9: "And it has become, like people, like priest; and I will punish them for their ways, and reward them for their doings, for they shall eat and not have enough. They shall commit whoredom and not increase because they have stopped taking heed to the LORD. Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart" (vs 9-11).

A very profound verse! Think of this, not only in the sense of wine, but think of it in the sense of drugs along with alcohol. Think of it in the sense of early education of children, beginning in kindergarten under the guise of age protection, they show the things that are absolutely pornographic of every sex act. They try and introduce it to them as early as they can.

I'm convinced that when the high school that is about four or five blocks from us, and I leave the house and go somewhere I have to come down to the main street where all the teenagers are walking. They all look down and depressed and miserable, just unhappy and rotten. Why? *Because of all of the 'stinkin thinkin' and stinking sex things that they're taught in school!*

It's amazing! It takes away the heart! What was the most profound and important thing that took place **that has taken the morals of America down?** *The acceptance and the introduction of evolution into the school system!* That has had the most profound effect on the morals! And the removing of the Ten Commandments and so forth.

I'm anxious to see what sort of response they're going to get with this latest movement to put the Ten Commandments in the schools. Then you have to ask, 'Which version?' That's what happens! It takes away the heart! When it takes away the heart, it takes away the mind! ***If you can steal the heart, you can corrupt the mind!***

I think that this is all very profound and important information to know and understand, and also to disseminate. This gives us an understanding on how we can approach people coming out of the world today.

Not only does it have to be approached on an intellectual basis, but it also has to be approached on an emotional basis, which will pierce through the hardness of the heart to illicit them, prick their hearts with God's Spirit unto repentance.

That's what's wrong with all of these church things where they try and get new people in by lowering the standards of morality so that you can get new people to be 'churched.' God doesn't want them 'churched.' ***He wants them converted!***

Proverbs 6:16: These six *things* the LORD

hates; yea, seven *are* an abomination unto Him: a proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, **a heart that plots wicked imaginations**... [note Rom. 1:19-31; we will see what we are to do with our imaginations] ...feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness *who* speaks lies, and he who sows discord among brethren” (vs 16-19).

Proverbs 10:20: “The tongue of the righteous *is as* choice silver; **the heart of the wicked is worth little.**” *That’s what God thinks of the intellects of this world!*

Proverbs 11:20: “Those who are of a **perverse heart are an abomination to the LORD**, but the upright in the way *are* His delight.”

Prov. 18:2 describes the modern age and nothing else can. This describes the modern thing of self-esteem. This describes an awful lot of modern education.

Proverbs 18:2: “A fool has no delight in understanding, but **only that his heart may discover itself.**” *Man, I’ve got to find myself!*

Where have a lot of the movie stars gone to discover themselves? *India! To Hinduism!* They come back with gurus or whatever!

Isn’t it interesting that the ‘lotus position’—cross legged—with your hands on our knees and your thumb and forefinger so that you are able to meditate. ***What you’re really doing is turning into demonic wavelengths!*** You’re using your electromagnetic field as a generator in welcoming them. Most people don’t know that.

What they’re told when they ‘meditate’ is that you’re to get everything out of your mind, vacate your mind, get all thoughts out of your mind. ***If you do that then the demons can come in, because you have no resistance!***

God doesn’t want that! ***In the meditation that God wants you to do is:***

- think upon His Word
- meditate on His Law
- meditate on His goodness
- meditate on His graciousness

It’s quite different!

Something else can happen to the heart, and this no one should ever do! This is why God ordered in His commandments and laws that murderers be executed, child molesters be executed, rapists be executed, because something happens to their heart and they cannot control themselves from that moment on.

Proverbs 28:14: “Blessed *is* the man who fears always, but **he who hardens his heart shall fall into mischief.**”

That’s what happens! When people reach certain life experiences that are gross abominable sins, then their hearts are such that they are hardened! This can happen in war where men are out killing each other. Their hearts become very hardened so they can kill without even the thought of what that other person is going through. That’s the whole purpose of making soldiers the way they are today:

- so they can kill with no compunction
- so they will have no conscience
- so that they will have no remorse

*They will be happy that they do it! **Harden the heart!***

It’s the same way with God’s Word. Some people have hardened their hearts to God’s Word. *That is not what it should be!*

I had another thought for the title to this sermon, which is ***the heart of David and the mind of Christ!*** That’s what God wants us to have.

Let’s see some positive aspects. If the heart is not hardened, or so gross, there is hope for repentance. Now you understand why God did what He did to Saul, to call him. He knocked Saul off his horse, donkey, whatever, because his heart was getting hard from killing the Christians. God had to do something drastic.

Does that not tell us something about how our approach needs to be toward the world today. It means to be more drastic to get their attention. They are so calloused and desensitized! Here’s what trouble does:

Psalms 77:1: “I cried to God with my voice, to God with my voice; and He gave ear to me. In the day of my trouble I sought the LORD; my hand was lifted up, and my tears ceased not in the night; my soul refused to be comforted” (vs 1-2).

- there’s a purpose for trials and tests and calamities
- there’s a purpose why some people go through such horrendous things

Hopefully that they would return to God!

Verse 3[transcriber’s correction]: “I remembered God and was troubled...” He could see himself as he is. Hasn’t that been your experience when you’ve been really sick and lying in bed miserable and rotten, and don’t feel good? You’ve got a terrible temperature and your attitude is bad, you’re grouchy

and miserable. You just all of a sudden it comes into your mind how wretched that you really are.

There's a good side of that! ***It leads you to repentance and it gives you understanding!***

"...I moaned, and my spirit fainted. Selah" (v 3). You can complain all you want, but you have to repent!

Verse 4: "You keep my eyes awake... [couldn't sleep] ...I am too troubled and I cannot speak. I have pondered the days of old, the years of ages past. I remember my song in the night; **I commune with my own heart**, and my spirit made diligent search" (vs 4-6).

Here's where repentance begins! That's how it happens, you begin to think on it. You begin to meditate on it. You begin to entertain the fact that you have been wrong. That's hard to do!

Verse 7: "Will the LORD cast off forever? And will He be favorable no more? Is His mercy gone forever? Has His promise failed for all generations? Has God forgotten to be gracious?..." (vs 7-9). *David was low*, wasn't he? This is about as low as you can be!

"...Has He in anger shut up His tender mercies? Selah. And I said, 'This is my grief, that the right hand of the Most High could change.' I will remember the works of the LORD; surely I will remember Your wonders of old. I will also meditate on all Your work, and talk of Your doings. Your way, O God, is in Holiness; who is so great a God as our God?" (vs 9-13).

Then David is praising God for all the things that He did! Let's see an example of this in the New Testament. Here's an example of it, exactly the same way. This is *the story of the prodigal son*. ***You need the heart as well as the mind to repent!***

Luke 15:11: "Then He [Jesus] said, 'A certain man had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me that portion of the property which falls to me.' And he divided to them his living. And not many days after, the younger son gathered everything together... [this was in his heart and what he planned] ...and departed into a distant country. And there he wasted all his substance, living in debauchery" (vs 11-13)—*riotous living, and everything that that means!*

We just read that wine and new wine and whoredom take away the heart. That's what he was doing, that's what the riotous living is all about.

Verse 14: "But after he had spent everything, there arose a severe famine throughout that country, and he began to be in need. Then he

went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine" (vs 14-15). *For a Jew this is a pretty hard task, feeding the swine!* You can't ask him to do anything worse than that.

Verse 16: "And he was longing to fill his stomach with the husks that the swine were eating, but no one gave anything to him. And **when he came to himself**..." (vs 16-17). *That ties right in there with Psa. 77 where David communed with his heart!* That's where you come to yourself! That's what David was doing.

Psalms 77:6: "I remember my song in the night; **I commune with my own heart, and my spirit made diligent search**." That's the beginning of repentance, expressed right here in:

Luke 15:17: "And **when he came to himself**..." Coming to yourself in repentance is a change of heart and change of mind. Remember that the neurons are working, and the Spirit of God is working either *with* you or *in* you. ***It is God Who leads you to repentance!***

"...he said..." (v 17)—the prodigal son; **he was communing with himself**. There's always a constant conversation going on in your mind with yourself. The reason is, is because you are a *thinking* being. God intended that!

"...How many of my father's hired servants have an abundance of bread, and I am dying of hunger? I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him..." (vs 17-18). It took a lot of courage to come to this point, because he had taken everything and left.

"...Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; and I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired servants" (vs 18-19). *That took a lot of humbling!*

Verse 20: "And he arose and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him..."

I don't know if the father was out there watching every night like Jacob was looking for Joseph and mourning over Joseph. You know the scheme that the brother plotted against Joseph to sell him off into Egypt and brought back the coat with goats blood on it and said that Joseph was dead. I imagine that the father was out there waiting.

He saw him, "...and was moved with compassion, and ran and embraced him, and ardently kissed him. And his son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your

son” (vs 20-21).

This is what we need to come to when we repent to God. This kind of repentance. ***The heart and the mind are capable of that with God’s Spirit to lead you to repentance!***

Verse 22: “But the father said to his servant, ‘Bring out a robe, the best robe, and clothe him, and give *him* a ring for his hand and sandals for *his* feet.’” This is what God does when He calls us and forgives us. He cleans us all up. There’s no more sin, it’s all clean and washed away, and we put on the garments of Christ and righteousness!

Verse 23: “‘And bring the fattened calf and kill *it*, and let us eat and be merry. For this my son was dead, but is alive again; and he was lost, but is found.’ And they began to be merry” (vs 23-24).

There’s always the Pharisee hanging in the background. This will be tough on a lot of people when God calls new people in with us, which *He will! That will happen!* They’ve gone out and have done with their lives like the young son here. God is going to treat them the same way that He treats us. We need not have the response of the elder son.

Verse 25: “But his elder son was in a field; and when he was coming *back*, and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. And after calling one of the servants nearby, he inquired what these things might be. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come *home*, and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has received him safe and well.’ Then he was angry and would not go in. As a result, his father came out and pleaded with him. But he answered *and* said to *his* father, ‘Behold, I have served you so many years... [complaining] ...and never did I transgress your commandment; yet, you never gave me a kid, so that I might make merry with my friends; but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed the fattened calf for him.’ Then he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that *is* mine is yours. But it was fitting to make merry and rejoice because your brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, but is found’” (vs 25-32).

This is what God wants! God says that He ‘does not delight in the death of the wicked’ (Ezek. 33). He wants them to turn. ***There comes a change in the heart when this turning takes place***, and this begins the change and conversion of the heart *with God’s Spirit!*

Proverbs 3:1: “My son... [this could very well be the father of the prodigal son when he came home] ...do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commandments.” This was actually written

by David to Solomon. *But Solomon didn’t do this!*

Verse 2: “For they shall add length of days, and long life, and peace, to you. Do not let mercy and Truth forsake you...” (vs 2-3). Why? *Because it hardens your heart!*

“...bind them around your neck; **write them upon the tablet of your heart**” (v 3). What do we find written on the tablet of our heart?

- the Laws of God written in heart and inscribed in our mind
- we have mercy and truth written on the table of our heart

Or we can go the other way and have sin written with the point of diamond written upon our hearts!

If you do it God’s way, v 4: “And so you shall find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man. **Trust in the LORD with all your heart...**” (vs 4-5).

Isn’t it interesting how this ties together? When you remember the mercies of God and write them upon your heart, then you’re going to be trusting in God because you know it’s right. Another thing that this will do, too; ***it will help you see the greatness of God and the great power and understanding of God!*** That also brings you to an attitude of repentance all the time, which is a profound thing. That will happen! The older you get and the longer you are in the Church, that is going to happen, because you then begin to understand and realize the depths of human nature and how it can be.

You begin to understand how you need to stay right with God and *have the heart of David and the mind of Christ* and be tenderhearted and repenting.

“...and **lean not to your own understanding**” (v 5). That way then you’re not going to have the wavelengths of Satan the devil coming in and leading you astray with the lusts of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life.

Verse 6: “In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil. It shall be health to your navel... [the innermost part of your being] ...and marrow to your bones” (vs 6-8)—*which supplies your blood!* If you don’t have good blood and your insides aren’t working right, you’re in deep trouble.

Notice how that ties in with the heart and what you put in your heart. So, your heart, as the report says, affects your whole body. It works with your mind, but it affects your whole body:

- it affects your ability to resist sin
- it affects your ability to resist sickness
- it affects your ability to stay right with God

All of those things are right there. So, I think this is quite profound the way that is report has really brought out the things actually confirmed by the Bible and have been there thousands and thousands of years.

This kind of attitude in repentance is **a heart-changing experience**; Psalm 34:4: “I sought the LORD, and He answered me, and delivered me from **all my fears**.... [which is heart motivated] ...They looked to Him and were radiant; and their faces were not ashamed. This poor man cried... [because he understood himself] ...and the LORD heard, and saved him out of **all his troubles**” (vs 4-6). Notice: *all fears and all troubles!*

Verse 7: “The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him and delivers them.” How many times have we been delivered? *Many times not even knowing!*

I look back and see some of the things that I did and went through as a child, and I just have to say that God had an angel there to keep me from all kinds of trouble. I don’t know how else to explain it. It certainly wasn’t because I was good, and it certainly wasn’t because I made the choice. It was in spite of it.

Verse 8: “O taste and see that the LORD is good...” You understand the *will* of God as you do it; that’s how you taste it. You live it!

“...blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him. O fear the LORD, all you saints, for there is nothing lacking to those who fear Him” (vs 8-9).

You’re not going to be like the world just striving after every wind that comes along.

Verse 14: “Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry. The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth. The righteous cry, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are of a contrite spirit” (vs 14-18).

That is a matter of really understanding repentance. When there is the repentance, then you have a broken heart, which God heals, and you have contrite spirit, which God loves. He dwells with the humble.

So, you can see how the heart and the mind all work together, and how our spirit and God’s

Spirit works with us. It’s really quite a profound thing that even now scientifically they understand how some of these things work.

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Romans 12:2
- 2) 1 Samuel 16:6-7
- 3) Job 32:6-8,18
- 4) Zechariah 12:1
- 5) James 2:26
- 6) Psalm 17:1-3
- 7) Psalm 26:1-3
- 8) Jeremiah 17:1, 5-10
- 9) Ephesians 2:1-3
- 10) Ecclesiastes 8:5-11
- 11) Hosea 4:6
- 12) Hebrews 10:16
- 13) Hosea 4:6-11
- 14) Proverbs 6:16-19
- 15) Proverbs 10:20
- 16) Proverbs 11:20
- 17) Proverbs 18:2
- 18) Proverbs 28:14
- 19) Psalm 77:1-13
- 20) Luke 15:11-17
- 21) Psalm 77:6
- 22) Luke 15:17-32
- 23) Proverbs 3:1-8
- 24) Proverbs 34:4-9, 14-18

Scriptures quoted, not referenced:

- Philippians 3
- Romans 1:19-31
- Ezekiel 33

Also referenced:

Article: “**Brain May Grow New Cells Daily**” by Nicholas Wade Oct. 15, 1999) {nytimes.com/1999/10/15/us/brain-may-grow-new-cells-daily.html}

Sermon: *Stinkin’ Thinkin’*

FRC:bo
Transcribed: 8/19/18

The Heart/Mind Connection II Change Your Heart by Repentance

Fred R. Coulter

I think it's very important for us to understand about the heart and the mind that they now have discovered that the heart actually has neuro cells just like the brain. It has axial connections just like the brain. The heart is the major organ that causes the whole body to respond as far as the endocrine and hormonal glands are concerned.

The heart also has to do with the emotional side of thinking! Since I did part one, two people have come to me who heard a radio program with someone who had a heart transplant.

One person, after she had the heart transplant, craved food that she hated before. So, her whole personality was changed because of the heart transplant. Another person said that he had flashbacks, visions of experiences that he never experienced. They were the experiences of the person whose heart he had.

Also, I think it's important that you understand that when they do heart surgery, that in many cases they say that the personality changes. Your heart does have to do with personality, and it *does have to do with your thinking and emotions!*

Another report I read was where the brain is continually producing new neuro cells. Every day you get a flush of new neuro cells, which is really good when you come to understand that God has provided a way for you to change, to overcome, for you to have your memory continuously go on. They say that your brain acts very much like a continuous tape recorder. Every day these new neurons come on and it records what you do and learn that day and it integrates it with the rest of your brain.

There are three parts of the brain where these new neuro cells are made every day: in the frontal part, and on each side where memory is contained. Also, they did an autopsy on Einstein's brain and the part that is given to mathematics was exceptionally large.

Was it exceptionally large because he was born with it? or Because through the exercise of that and the new neuro cells every day, it actually built up that part of his brain to have it function in that way?

It's almost like when you have a skilled worker, once he has these skills he can do it automatically, but what he does after that he can become more creative.

This is something we need to realize in relationship to children. But children need to learn everything by rote first; learning by heart. 'Mommy, I learned my times table by heart.'

As I covered in part one, emotions have a right place. Emotions should be used rightly. Emotions should never be used to replace true facts. Emotional feelings and true facts are entirely different. Just this morning as I was leaving the house, someone had come along and left a wonderful example of advertising. It's a little box put out by Oil of Olay. It shows a woman and daughter, and it's really ethnically correct. They do it that way for a purpose, because we're in a society that is diverse, so they get a picture of a woman and a daughter and they're ethnically correct, it would suit any race.

What they have on here, right in the front, is very interesting. This is all emotional, all appealing to the self and self-esteem.

(from the advertisement)

Looking beautiful is one thing. Feeling beautiful is everything!

When you look at that statement, that's glorifying the self, worshipping the self, *doing away with God!* They don't come out and say it, but if it is everything, it's a feeling. Whereas, ***knowing the true God and knowing Jesus Christ is everything!*** Not *feeling* beautiful. I looked inside and, lo and behold, here's what we have:

The new body language: moisturizing body wash. This is the new Olay Daily, renewal moisturizing body wash.

And they've got a couple of samples. Here's another one:

Good for your skin! Good for your spirit!

Now we're into spiritual things!

Lasting colors that care! Color moist lipstick! Lips feel soft and color lasts hour after hour. Dermatologist tested! Available in 48 shades!

There you go, and you've got a little bit you can try. Then you have the all-day moisturizer foundation, mascara; smudge proof and washes off easily with soap and water. **Are we getting wrapped up in ourselves?**

Oil of Olay is the proud sponsor of “I am beautiful.”

That’s registered trademark!

There’s a powerful documentary and outreach which is dedicated to empowering women to recognize their inner strength.

Straight from Eve!

Everything you need to look most beautiful: moisturizers, new complete UV protective moisturizer lotion. Vitamin E enriched, light, greaseless, Olay Moisture.

I imagine that this going to be a bombshell. They are going to increase sales like never before. If, with these emotional ads, they can increase the sales of Michelin Tires and American Express, think what this will do delivered to the door. This is a perfect example of emotional ads appealing to self-esteem that you are the most important person in the universe. That’s exactly what it is.

Looking beautiful is one thing; feeling beautiful is everything!

Let’s see what God says about beauty. We’re talking it here and this is all appealing to vanity.

Proverbs 31:30: “Favor *is* deceitful, and beauty *is* vain; **but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.**” The way of the world is totally different than that.

Let’s see what God is going to do with all this vanity in the end-time, for men and women. Here it talks about the women. Some women think that every time I read a Scripture concerning women, that I’m picking on women and that I’m prejudice against women. Not so! I’m not! Here’s what God says concerning the women. It’s in the Bible, so if I read it from the Bible, it’s Scripture! If this is picking on women, then God is picking on women! But that incongruous, because He created them!

Isaiah 3:16: “And the LORD says, ‘Because the daughters of Zion are proud... [this is not against all women, but haughty women] ...and have walked with stretched out necks and ogling with *their* eyes, walking and mincing *as* they go, and making a tinkling with their feet’—and *Oil of Olay!*”

You have to think of things like what was mentioned and all the things that are in cosmetics. I know a woman who used to bleach her hair this platinum blonde, and she used to get red streaks down the back of her neck. You know that can’t be good. Some of these things are going to lead to this.

Verse 17: “Therefore, the LORD will strike with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of

Zion, and the LORD will uncover their secret parts.’ In that day the LORD will take away the beauty of ankle bracelets, and the headbands, and the crescents, the pendants, and the bracelets, and the veils; the headdresses, and the leg ornaments, and the sashes, and the boxes of perfume, and the earrings; the rings and nose jewels; the festal apparel and the outer garments; and the mantles, and the purses; the mirrors and the fine linen; and the turbans and the veils. And there shall be, instead of fragrance, rottenness; and instead of a sash, a rope; and instead of well-set hair, baldness; and instead of a rich robe, a wrapping of sackcloth; *and* branding instead of beauty. Your men shall fall by the sword, and your mighty in the war” (vs 17-25).

There’s what God says about the vain, haughty beauty of this world! Whenever you watch any of those fashion shows, that’s what you see. They are the saddest looking, thinnest looking... I don’t know how they walk!

We can have a little fun with this, but the truth is that *all of these things are leading people astray!* Just stop and think for a minute: How many commercials a day are you bombarded with when you listen to the radio and television? All of these things affect us. All the things that come to us, that affect our heart and mind one way or the other, because that’s the way we’re made.

We have to learn to use it properly according to the things that God shows in His Word!

Let’s review about *the spirit in man*. The heart, the spirit and the mind all work together. So, the spirit in man is very important. It is the spirit in man that we have, or the spirit of man, which God has made and given to us so that we have intellect and we have feelings and emotions and things like this that interact with our heart that makes us distinct from all the animals. The animals run by instinct, whereas, human beings are created to operate by *choice*. We are to be thinking beings. That’s why God made us the way that He did. In order for us to be thinking beings we need to have *the spirit of man in us!*

Zechariah 12:1: “The burden of the Word of the LORD for Israel. Thus says the LORD, who stretches forth the heavens, and lays the foundation of the earth, **and forms the spirit of man within him.**”

In order to have life, you have to have the spirit, so therefore, we can conclude that most probably the spirit of man is given to the individual at the point of conception. That’s when there is life!

We also found where Elihu talked to Job and said; Job 32:8: “But ***there is a spirit in man*** and the ***inspiration of the Almighty gives them understanding.***”

This is showing how the Spirit of God works with *the spirit of man*. Let’s see how that was understood by the Apostle Paul. We’re going to learn some pretty important things concerning the *spirit in man* and *the Spirit of God*. There’s also called ‘the spirit of the world’ showing that Satan is ‘the prince of the power of the air.’

From your heart and mind there is an electromagnetic hologram outline of you! This electromagnetic hologram is what Satan uses to tune into you. He can throw thoughts at you, which are called *fiery missiles or darts!*

In any given room that you are sitting in, there are hundreds of radio waves passing through the room, television waves, digital waves. If you have a cellular phone it would go right on up to the satellite in space and it would make your phone call wherever you want to go. These things are everywhere! The problem comes when you have so many of these things that it interferes with your electromagnetic field that you have, and then it begins to interfere with your health, your mind and your heart. All of those things really become quite a particular response of your body.

1-Corinthians 1:9: “But according as it is written, ‘*The eye has not seen, nor the ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.*’”

Of course, the love of God starts from the heart! The heart can be changed; you can change your heart by using the Spirit of God and the Word of God in a proper way.

As we will see, God looks to the heart. So, sometimes a lot of the things that you may think or a lot of things that you may feel, in the way of negative, depressive, down, or whatever, God is not looking to that. God is looking to your heart in relationship to Him, which becomes the most important thing that we need to understand.

We could entitle this as *the heart of David and the mind of Christ*, and that’s what God wants us to have.

Verse 10: “But God has revealed *them* to us by His Spirit, for the Spirit...” This ties in with what Elihu said to Job, that the inspiration is of the Almighty. He’s given us the *spirit in man*; the inspiration is from Him!

“...for the Spirit searches all things—even the deep things of God” (v 10). God wants us to

know those things. There’s nothing wrong with asking God to help us understand the deep things that He has. ***If we:***

- yield to God
- we have the right kind of heart
- the right kind of spirit
- the right kind of attitude

Then God will reveal those things to us! God is the One Who makes it possible!

Verse 11: “For who among men... [any man] ...understands the things of man except *by* the spirit of man, which *is* in him?... [God has put it there] ...In the same way also, the things of God no one understands except ***by the Spirit of God.***”

In other words, people cannot just take the Bible—the Word of God—and open it up and read it like a book and understand it. When they come to things that say:

- ‘you shall not commit adultery,’ *they have an excuse* ‘you shall not steal,’ *they have an excuse*
- ‘you shall not have any other gods before you,’ *they have an excuse*
- ‘you shall not do as the heathen do,’ *they have an excuse*
- ***‘It’s my belief!’***

So, God has to do something with His Spirit and your spirit and heart in order to make that connection.

Verse 12: “Now, we have not received the spirit of the world...”—which comes from Satan, and he appeals to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life.

When we begin to understand the things around us, we see how all of these things that Satan is using in developing his great occult society. He’s appealing more and more to the self. When you look to the self, you’re going to find yourself in bad shape.

1-John 2:15: “Do not love the world... [Why? ***Because there’s the spirit of the world***] ...nor the things *that are* in the world....”

I tell you what, there are jillions of things. We were looking through a catalog the other day put out by Penny’s. that’s one little store in one little place, one little speck on the earth, and they’ve got so many things in it, page after page after page. If you would look at any store, put them all together—take all the categories that you would want to take—and the things of man and life that are in the world. It’s just overwhelming!

“...If anyone loves the world, the love of the

Father is not in him... [loving God is everything] ...because everything that *is* in the world... [inspired by the spirit of the world: Satan the devil] ...the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pretentious pride of physical life—is not from the Father, but is from the world. And the world and its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God abides forever” (vs 15-17).

The will of God is the paramount important thing. Not many people realize it, but the way that the model prayer is given... How does that start?

- *Our Father Who is in heaven...*! So, we’re looking to God the Father in heaven.
- *Holy is Your name!* Getting your mind off yourself and on God. You’re getting your mind off of what you want, and on to what God wants.
- *Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven!* Is there anything in heaven that is going on that is contrary to the will of God? *No!*

When we say *on earth*, it’s meaning *in our lives!* Eventually, when Christ returns, that will be the whole world, of course!

1-Corinthians 2:12: “Now, we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is of God, so that we might know the things graciously given to us by God.” *That’s the most important thing! That is everything!* When you come to the point that **you quit**:

- playing church
- playing religion
- looking to yourself

And you start looking to God for everything, then you’ll really begin to understand it!

Rom. 8—the reason I’m going back here is to show that the spirit of this world, as Paul said, is ‘the spirit of bondage and fear.’ What overcomes fear? *Perfect love casts out all fear!*

Romans 8:14: “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are *the* sons of God. Now, you have not received a spirit of bondage again unto fear, but you have received *the* Spirit of sonship, whereby we call out, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit... [of God] ...itself **bears witness conjointly with our own spirit...** [showing that the spirit of man is there] ...*testifying* that we are *the* children of God” (vs 14-16).

1-Corinthians 2:13: “Which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom...” that’s why God doesn’t want us to put the philosophies of the world and graft it into the Word of God and come up with some half-cocked religion

like Satan the devil has. He doesn’t want that!

“...but in *words* taught by *the* Holy Spirit *in order* to communicate spiritual things by spiritual means” (v 13).

That’s how you understand the Scriptures, you compare it with spiritual things. One way to overcome a lot of the emotions that you might have is to begin comparing the spiritual things. Why? *Because the heart is deceitful above all things!* We can deceive ourselves with

- our feelings
- our intellect
- a perspective of things

when we’re not comparing it with the Word of God and the spiritual things of God!

Verse 14: “But *the* natural man... [just a carnal person] ...does not receive the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand *them* because they are spiritually discerned”—*or understood!*

Now let’s talk about what God knows and understand, and another name of God that He is called. Peter is telling why he went to Cornelius:

Acts 15:8: “And **God, Who knows the heart**, bore witness to them *by* giving them the Holy Spirit, even as *He did* to us, and made no difference between us and them, **and has purified their hearts** through the faith” (vs 8-9).

If you have your heart purified, that means it can be changed! We’re going to see how that can happen and what you need to do. But what is important here is “And God, **Who knows the heart...**” In the Greek it is ***the heart knowing God!*** God is the One Who knows the heart, and that is the thing that we need to realize and understand.

1-Kings 8—part of this is the prayer of Solomon at the dedication of the temple. We’re going to see several things involved, especially how God wants us to *walk before Him with all our heart*. We’ll see later on, *seek Him with all our heart*, and *return to God with all our heart*. ***That is all a part of your relationship with God!***

Proverbs 4:20: “My son, attend to my words... [put this in relationship to God the Father talking to you as a very son of God] ...incline your ear to my sayings. Let them not depart from your eyes; **keep them in the midst of your heart**, for they *are* life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. **Above all guard the door of your mind with diligence, for out of it are the issues of life**” (vs 20-23).

This is going to affect everything that you

do. It's very important; not only your mind, but your heart.

Verse 24: "Put away from you a deceitful mouth, and devious lips put far from you. Let your eyes look right on, and let your eyelids look straight before you. Ponder the path of your feet, and all your ways *will be* established. Do not turn to the right hand nor to the left; remove your foot from evil" (vs 24-27).

You can probably tie in many Scriptures that would fit right in there with it. Take this section and do a particular Bible study about:

- how you are to walk
- how you are to turn from evil
- how you're not to go to the right hand or the left hand
- how you're to not to add to or take away from the Word of God

1-Kings 8:22: "And Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel and spread forth his hands toward the heavens. And he said, 'LORD God of Israel, *there is* no god like You, in heaven above or on earth beneath, who keeps covenant and mercy **with Your servants who walk before You with all their heart**... [that's what David did; he was a man after God's heart] ...Who has kept with Your servant David my father what You promised him. You also spoke with Your mouth and have fulfilled with Your hand, as *it is* today'" (vs 22-24).

I recommend that you read the whole prayer of Solomon here; it's really a very powerful prayer.

Verse 44: "If Your people go out to battle against their enemy, wherever You shall send them, and shall pray to the LORD toward the city which You have chosen, and the house that I have built for Your name, then hear in heaven their prayer and their cry, and maintain their cause. If they sin against You (for *there is* no man who does not sin), and if You are angry with them and have delivered them up before the enemy and they have been led away captive to the land of the enemy, far or near, yet, if they shall think within themselves in the land..." (vs 44-47). ***In other words, come to themselves and repent!***

"...where they are carried captives, and repent, and pray to You in the land of their captors saying, 'We have sinned and have done perversely, we have done wickedly,' and **so return to You with all their heart**..." (vs 47-48). ***Repentance must precede a change of heart!***

"...and with all their soul, in the land of their enemies who led them away captive, and if

they pray to You toward their land which You gave to their fathers, to the city which You have chosen, and the house which I have built for Your name, **then hear their prayer and their cry in heaven** Your dwelling place, and maintain their cause, **and forgive Your people who have sinned against You**, even all their sins which they have done against You, and give them compassion before their captors, so that they may have compassion on them; for they *are* Your people, and Your inheritance, which You brought out of Egypt from the middle of the furnace of iron; for Your eyes shall be open to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your people Israel, to hearken to them whenever they call to You" (vs 48-52). *Let's see how that was literally fulfilled!*

The Jews were in captivity in Babylon. They were rejected of God! They were to be there seven years before they were able to return, and it talks about 'Your servant' and 'Your people' that we just read in 1-Kings 8. We have that literally fulfilled right here; this is Daniel praying. Daniel was a *servant of God!* Who was he praying for? *The people of God!*

Daniel 9:1: "In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans, in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood by books the number of the years, which came according to the Word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years" (vs 1-2).

God answered this prayer very shortly, because this is quite a profound prayer, and literally following what Solomon prayed about in his original prayer as part of the covenant that God made with Solomon when the temple was built. Of course, the temple was destroyed, and the city was destroyed. So, this is a literal fulfillment of that section of 1-Kings 8.

Verse 3: "And I set my face toward the LORD God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes. And I prayed to the LORD my God and made my confession, and said..." (vs 3-4).

Notice how he made confession, and this follows right along with the outline of the model prayer. First of all, you praise God! You look to Him.

"... 'O LORD, the great and awesome God, keeping the covenant and mercy to those who love Him, and to those who keep His commandments, we have sinned...' " (vs 4-5). Daniel didn't say 'your people have sinned.' He said, "...**we** have sinned..." *including himself!*

“...and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, and have turned aside from Your commandments and from Your ordinances. Neither have we hearkened unto Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings, our rulers, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. O LORD, righteousness *belongs* to You, but to us confusion of face, as at this day to the men of Judah and to the people of Jerusalem, and to all Israel who are near and who are afar off, through all the countries where You have driven them because they dealt treacherously with You. O Lord, confusion of face belongs to us, to our kings, to our rulers, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against You” (vs 5-8). *You can read the rest of the prayer!*

Verse 16: “O LORD, I pray You, according to all Your righteousness, let Your anger and Your fury be turned away from Your city Jerusalem, Your Holy mountain. Because of our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people have become a reproach to all those who are around us. And now, therefore, O our God, **hear the prayer of Your servant, and his supplications**, and cause Your face to shine upon Your sanctuary that is desolate for the LORD’S sake. **O my God, incline Your ear and hear.** Open Your eyes and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by Your name. For we do not present our supplications before You on account of our righteousnesses, **but because of Your great mercies.** O LORD, hear; O LORD, forgive; O LORD, hearken and do. Do not delay, for Your own sake, O my God; for Your city and Your people are called by Your name” (vs 16-19).

Verse 20: “And while I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin, and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the Holy mountain of my God; yea, while I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision...” (vs 20-21).

What was it a vision of? *When the Messiah would come!* A profound answer to the prayer; God answered that prayer immediately!

Let’s see what’s so important concerning God. Let’s understand this. **God knows** that *man at his very best is altogether vanity!* **God knows** that we are going to sin, just like Solomon said, ‘What man is there that sins not?’ Here’s what we need to do. Deut. 30 is what the people of God need to do:

- those who left God
- those who have given up on the Sabbath
- those who have turned back and gone into the world

As long as there is life there is hope! But they are going to have make the choices. They are going to have to come back to God. We just pray that God will send His Spirit or an angel to prick their heart and conscience and bring them back.

Deuteronomy 30:1: “And it shall be when all these things have come on you... [all the things of Deut. 28 & 29] ...the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and when you shall call *them* to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God has driven you, and shall **return to the LORD** your God **and shall obey His voice** according to all that I command you today, you and your children, **with all your heart and with all your soul**” (vs 1-2). *That’s what God wants!*

Verse 3: “Then the LORD your God will turn *away* your captivity. And He will have compassion on you, and will return and gather you from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you.”

God is going to bring them back; actually talking about the end-time, which is yet ahead of us.

Psalms 78:31—a very instructive Psalm: “The wrath of God came upon them and killed the strongest of them, and struck down the chosen men of Israel. For all this they still sinned and did not believe in His wonderful works” (vs 31-32).

How hard can the human heart get? *Right there under the pillar of fire by night and the cloud by day!* And after seeing all the plagues and miracles that He did to destroy the Egyptians!

Verse 33: “Therefore, He ended their days in vanity and their years in terror.... [40 years of it] ...When He slew them, then they sought Him...” (vs 33-34).

Why does God cause these things to happen? *Just like it is today, when people have their hearts so hard, they need something so profound to shake them!* That’s why we have all the disaster and things coming about now, to shake people to their senses; maybe their hearts will be softened a bit.

What happened when He slew them? “...and they turned back and sought after God earnestly” (v 34). Isn’t that true? *Even an atheist prays when he’s in trouble!*

Verse 35: “And they remembered that God was their Rock, and the Most High God was their Redeemer. Nevertheless, they flattered Him with their mouths, and they lied to Him with their tongues, for their heart was not steadfast with Him; neither were they faithful in His covenant” (vs 35-37). **How is your heart with God?**

Verse 38: “But He, *being* full of

compassion, forgave their iniquity and did not destroy them; yea, many times He turned His anger away and did not stir up all His wrath, for He remembered that they were but flesh, a wind that passes away and does not come again. How often did they provoke Him in the wilderness and grieve Him in the desert! And still again they tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel” (vs 38-41).

That’s exactly what’s happening today. Why is there going to be such catastrophe at the end-time? *It’s literally the only way that God is going to be able to get their attention to get them come to a point of repenting because their hearts are so hard! They’ve hardened their hearts! It’s a shame, but they have!*

Joel 2:11: “And the LORD shall utter His voice before His army; for His camp *is* exceedingly great; for powerful *is He* who executes His Word, for the Day of the LORD *is* great and very terrible; and who can endure it?... [Who can abide in it or live in it?] ... ‘Therefore, even now,’ says the LORD, **‘turn to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning. Yes, rend your heart and not your garments, and return to the LORD your God: for He *is* gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and He repents of the evil. Who knows *if* He will return and repent and leave a blessing behind Him...’** (vs 11-14).

Who’s to know in these times of terrible straights and troubles that God will not reach down and help a lot of people? *He will!* That’s what the 144,000 and the great innumerable multitude of Rev. 7 is all about. That’s about a fulfillment of these four verses here in Joel, vs 11-14; *a literally fulfillment of it!*

(go to the next track)

Now we’re going to see not only are we to walk in God’s ways and return to Him, but ***we are to seek Him!*** 2-Chron. 15 is really quite an instruction of the two sides of the coin:

1. your heart is right to being with
2. you harden your heart at the end

This is quite profound. We’re going to learn a lot of lessons today about how the heart is so important with our relationship with God. If our heart is right, then our mind will be right.

2-Chronicles 15:1: “And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded. And he went out to meet Asa, and said to him, ‘Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. **The LORD is with you while you are with Him...**’” (vs 1-2).

Profound principle: you can’t leave God and

expect God to be with you, because *you are not honoring God!* You are not doing His will!

“...And **if you seek Him, He will be found by you.** But **if you forsake Him, He will forsake you**” (v 2).

Acts 17—Paul comes to Mars Hill in Athens, and this is quite a testimony to these people. They were never called, and they were left to their own devices. I don’t recall in the New Testament that there was ever a church at Athens. There are churches at Corinth, Philippi, Macedonia and Achaia, but not here.

Acts 17:22: “Then Paul stood in *the* center of Mars Hill *and* said...” He used the means of communication that they had in his day. That is he went to the town square, which was Mars Hill, where they had all of the Epicureans and Stoics and they were arguing back and forth with their philosophies and so forth.

“...‘Men, Athenians, I perceive *that* in all things you are **very reverent to deities...** [devoted to demons; that’s exactly what’s happening in the world today] ...for *as* I was passing through and observing the objects of your veneration, I also found an altar on which was inscribed, “To an unknown God.” So then, He Whom you worship in ignorance *is* the One *that* I proclaim to you. He *is* the God Who made the world and all things that *are* in it. Being *the* Lord of heaven and earth, He does not dwell in temples made by hands; nor is He served by the hands of men, as *though* He needs anything, *for* He gives to all life and breath and all things”’ (vs 22-25).

Meaning that *you as a human being cannot work out your own salvation without God and Christ, the grace of God and the love of God!*

As Elihu said, ‘If a man has control over his spirit’—which he doesn’t... Why? *Because if you had control over your spirit you could live forever! God has that control!*

Verse 26: “And He made of one blood all the nations of men to dwell upon all the face of the earth, having determined beforehand *their* appointed times and the boundaries of their dwelling; **in order that they might seek the Lord...**” (vs 26-27). *God has made it possible for all people!*

“...if perhaps they might **feel** after Him and might find Him... [that comes from the heart; from the emotions] ...though truly, He is not far from each one of us, for **in Him we live and move and have our being...**” (vs 27-28). *That’s why God wants all of our heart! Seek Him with all your heart!*

“...as some of the poets among you also

have said, 'For we are His offspring.' Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we should not think that the Godhead *is* like that which *is made* of gold, or silver, or stone—a graven thing of art *devised by the* imagination of man; for *although* God has indeed overlooked the times of this ignorance, He now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has set a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness by a Man Whom He has appointed, having given proof to all *by* raising Him from the dead” (vs 28-31).

That was quite a powerful sermon! They were going in there where they had migration of souls and reincarnation and all this sort of thing and telling them about the resurrection of the dead. The reason that we can look at it is so that God is the same in the New Testament as in the Old Testament. He told Asa:

2-Chronicles 15:2: “...The LORD *is* with you while you are with Him. And if you seek Him, He will be found by you. But if you forsake Him, He will forsake you. And for a long time Israel *had been* without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law. And when they turned in their trouble to the LORD God of Israel, and sought Him, He was found by them. And in those times *there was* no peace to him who went out, nor to him who came in, but great tumult *was* upon all the inhabitants of the lands” (vs 2-5).

He gives them the admonitions here, v 6: “And nation was destroyed by nation, and city-by-city, for God troubled them with every adversity. But you be strong and do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded” (vs 6-7).

Notice what they did, *here is action to repentance*, v 8: “And when Asa heard these words, and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities, which he had taken from Mount Ephraim. And he renewed the altar of the LORD before the porch of the LORD. And *he* gathered...” (vs 8-9)—*all together!*

Verse 12: “And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul.” *That’s all the people!*

It would be great if there were some kind of revival like this with the people of God! That would be something!

Verse 13: “And that whoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel should be put to death... [they put ‘teeth’ into this covenant; this was a special covenant] ...whether small or great, whether man or woman. And they swore to the

LORD with a loud voice, and with shouting, and with silver trumpets, and with rams’ horns. And all Judah rejoiced at the oath, **for they had sworn with all their heart and sought Him with their whole desire....** [see how God responded to them] ...And He was found by them, and the LORD gave them rest all around. And also *as to* Maachah the mother of Asa the king, he removed her from *being* queen mother...” (vs 13-16).

That’s real action! Jesus said, ‘He that comes to Me and hates not his father, mother, brother, sister, children, lands and his own life also, **cannot be My disciple.**’ *That’s exactly what Asa did here!* He didn’t count his mother as anything before God. He removed her

“...because she had made an idol in a grove. And Asa cut down her idol and stamped it and burned *it* at the brook Kidron” (v 16). And she probably said, ‘Oh, why are you doing this, Sonny, don’t you love your mommy.’

Verse 17: “But the high places were not taken away out of Israel. Nevertheless, the heart of Asa was perfect all his days”—*except when he went wrong at the end.*

Verse 18: “And he brought into the house of God the things which his father had dedicated, and that which he himself had dedicated, silver and gold and vessels. And there was no war to the thirty-fifth year of the reign of Asa” (vs 18-19).

The story continues, and here’s a good example of what happens. You can come along at one point in your life:

- you can be right with God
- your heart can be right with God
- you can be seeking God
- God is with you, you are with Him
- God’s Spirit is with you and leading you

Then there comes a day and you forget God, and you start leaning on your on devices. Since we’re living in the Laodicean age today, isn’t that easy for a lot of people to do? *No question about it! It’s all about the heart!*

2-Chronicles 16:1: “In the thirty-sixth year of the reign of Asa, Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah and built Ramah so that he might let no one go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.”

What was happening was a lot of the children of Israel up in the northern ten tribes were coming down to be with Asa, the king of Judah, and coming to the Feast and so forth. The king wanted to stop that!

We might just add that *instead of seeking*

God, then Asa, v 2: “Asa brought out silver and gold from the treasures of the house of the LORD... [which belonged to God] ...and of the king’s house and sent them to Ben-Hadad king of Syria, who lived at Damascus, saying, ‘Let there be a treaty between you and me as *there was* between my father and your father....’” (vs 2-3)—going back to the way his father was going.

“...Behold, I have sent you silver and gold. Go, break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel so that he may depart from me.’ And Ben-Hadad listened to King Asa and sent the commanders of his armies against the cities of Israel. And they struck Ijon and Dan, and Abel Maim, and all the store cities of Naphtali. And it came to pass when Baasha heard *it*, he left off building Ramah and let his work stop. And Asa the king took all Judah, and they carried away the stones of Ramah and timber with which Baasha was building. And he built with it Geba and Mizpah. And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, ‘Because you have relied on the king of Syria and have not relied on the LORD your God, therefore, the army of the king of Syria has escaped out of your hand’” (vs 3-7). *He’s talking about a past battle that he had won!*

This is what’s so important; this guarantees that we will never be forsaken of God, v 9: “For **the eyes of the LORD run to and fro in all the whole earth to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is perfect toward Him**....”

You can have all kinds of faults, difficulties, problems, **but your heart can be perfect**. That’s something! That’s amazing! The way that it’s perfect is because you’re in a constant attitude of :

- repentance
- thanking God
- knowing that God is there
- not looking to yourself
- not relying upon yourself

But looking to Him and His will! That’s what makes your heart perfect toward God. That’s why the model prayer is, ‘*Not my will be done,*’ as Christ said, ‘*but Your will be done!*’ How is it that the eyes of the Lord run to and fro in the earth? *God’s eyeballs are not out of his sockets*, like one man said. There’s a hard heart! That’s not what it’s talking about here.

Revelation 5:6—this is happening all the time: “Then I saw, and behold, before the throne and the four living creatures, and before the elders, **was standing a Lamb as having been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God** that are sent into all the earth.”

So, those seven spirits of God, wherever

they are, are going into all the earth. You can kind of liken that to God’s super spiritual satellite tracker, that’s going all over the earth.

2-Chronicles 16:9: “For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro in all the whole earth to show Himself strong on behalf of those **whose heart is perfect toward Him**....”

You can understand that God also said that ***He would not ever forsake you! Or leave you!*** As long as our heart is right with God—and they can be—and we can be loaded with all kinds of problems and difficulties but still have our heart right with God. That’s what’s important!

Now he’s talking about where Hanani the seer said to Asa said did wrong, “...In this you have done foolishly; therefore, from now on you shall have wars” (v 9).

Instead of repenting, notice Asa hardened his heart, right at the end he hardened his heart. What happens when you sin and don’t repent? *You’re not willing to admit that you’re wrong!*

Verse 10: “And Asa was angry with the seer and put him in a prison house. for *he was* in a rage against him because of this. And Asa oppressed some of the people at that time.”

That’s quite a story what Asa did! That’s how a person can turn back and go against God. You don’t want to let your heart be hardened.

Psa. 119 is absolutely a marvelous Psalm. As far as the Psalms are concerned, this is one of my favorites. I believe that these are the prophetic words of Christ and His attitude toward God’s way.

Psalm 40:6—here is a prophecy of Christ: “Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened; burnt offering and sin offering You have not required. Then I said, ‘Lo, I come; in the Scroll of the Book it is written of Me; I delight to do Your will, O My God; and **Your Law is within My heart**’” (vs 6-8).

That’s what God wants in our heart and in our mind! ***We need to have the heart of David and the mind of Christ!*** We can all do that.

Then it talks about what Christ did in preaching, v 9: I have preached righteousness in the great congregation; lo, I have not kept back my lips, O LORD, You know. I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not hidden Your loving kindness and Your Truth from the great congregation” (vs 9-10). *The whole Gospel is what is a fulfilling of that!*

Therefore, in Christ saying that these are the

prophetic words of Christ and His attitude toward the laws of God, this is really absolutely true.

Psalms 119:1: "Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the Law of the LORD. Blessed are they who keep His testimonies and who seek Him **with the whole heart**. They also do no iniquity; they walk in His ways" (vs 1-3).

Listen! If you're keeping the laws of God and His commandments, are you doing iniquity? *No!* You're being obedient!

Verse 9: With what shall a young man cleanse his way?... [young man/old man, young woman/old woman] ...By taking heed according to Your Word." *Paying full attention to God's way!*

Verse 10: "**With all my heart** I have sought You..." That's the wholeheartedness that God wants you to have.

Verse 32: "I will run the way of Your commandments for You shall enlarge my heart." Not physically enlarging the heart. Someone asked what this meant thinking God gives you an enlarged heart and now your diseased. He actually said that to me. You run across some strange people once in a while. That means that **when you have filled the heart with God's Word!**

Verse 36: "Incline my heart to Your testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away my eyes from seeing vanity; give me life in Your way" (vs 36-37). Did not Christ have to do all of that? *Every bit of it!*

Verse 80: "**Let my heart be blameless in Your statutes**, so that I may not be ashamed." In other words, be able to make right judgments, right decisions. *The right use of the emotions!* Why? *That will govern the way in which you think!* You won't let your heart be carried away with emotion after the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life.

Verse 111: "I have taken Your testimonies as an inheritance forever, for **they are the rejoicing of my heart.**"

That's why God's Word is so powerful; when you read it, it should rejoice your heart. So, if you're depressed and down, get out God's Word, read it and study it! If that doesn't work, get on your knees and start reading and studying the Psalms, praying to God, asking Him to help you. Read all those Psalms where David cried out and said, 'O God, the miry clay is taking me down, I'm overwhelmed and you've lifted me out of the pit.'

Verse 112: "I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes always... [constantly going God's way] ...even to the end."

Now let's look at the other end of it. That is a tender heart, **the heart of David, the heart of Christ!** Let's look at the other end of it, because there are some people who have done this. Just like Asa, who started out right but in the end **he hardened his heart** and paid the price.

Proverbs 21:29: "A wicked man hardens his face... [and his heart, too, as we understand] ...but *as for* the upright, he establishes his way."

Let's see how this works. What happens when you harden your heart? What does God do? How does God respond? *Here is the example of Pharaoh!* We can also see this, without a doubt! Sometimes you can have a hard heart, but you can still be pleasant about it. How is that?

If you come across some people who used to keep the Sabbath and find out that they're doing other things and you try and talk to them about it. They sort of are very condescending and sort of like 'you poor little puppy dog' and I'll pat you on the head. 'Sorry about that, but we don't need to keep any of those things anymore.' They've hardened their heart! What happens over a period of time?

Exodus 8:19: "And the priests said to Pharaoh, 'This is the finger of God.' And **Pharaoh's heart was hardened**, and he did not hearken to them, as the LORD had said."

Verse 32: "And **Pharaoh hardened his heart** at this time also, neither would he let the people go."

When you harden your heart, what does God do? Exodus 9:12: "And **the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh...**" ***If you harden your heart, then God is going to harden it even more!***

The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, but it also says in Exo. 8:32 that "...Pharaoh hardened his heart..." So, it was together. Pharaoh hardened his heart, then God hardened it.

Exodus 9:7: "And Pharaoh sent, and, behold, there was not one of the livestock of the Israelites dead. And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go." *Rather than saying, my what a miracle this is!* All the cattle are alive, I'd better honor God. ***No! Pharaoh's heart was hardened!***

What happens when the hardhearted has just a little bit of remorse, but not repentance?

Verse 27: "And Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, '**I have sinned this time...**' [This one time I sinned, but not before!] ...The LORD is righteous, and I and my people are wicked. Pray to the LORD, *for it is* enough. Let there be no *more* mighty thunderings and hail....'"

(vs 27-28).

Now, living in Egypt and never having seen that kind of thing going on, that must have absolutely scared them to the very bottom of their toenails!

Verse 34: “And when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunders had ceased, **he sinned still more and hardened his heart**, he and his servants. And **the heart of Pharaoh was hardened**, neither would he let the children of Israel go, even as the LORD had spoken by Moses” (vs 34-35).

After God sent some more plagues; He sent the plague of locust:

Exodus 10:3: “And Moses and Aaron came in to Pharaoh and said to him, ‘Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews, “How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go so that they may serve Me.”’” Of course, he didn’t do that, he hardened his heart again! The great locust came that stripped everything else. Let’s see the result of that:

Verse 16: “Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste. And he said, ‘**I have sinned against the LORD your God, and against you.** Now, therefore, I beg you, forgive my sin only this once...’” (vs 16-17).

This is remorse and repentance of the world, not to God; he didn’t repent from the heart. He just looked at the circumstances and was overwhelmed.

“...and pray to the LORD your God that He may take away from me this death only.’ And he went out from Pharaoh, and prayed to the LORD. And the LORD turned a mighty strong west wind, which took away the locusts and threw them into the Red Sea. There did not remain one locust in all the boundaries of Egypt. But **the LORD hardened Pharaoh’s heart**, and he did not let the children of Israel go” (vs 17-20).

So, then God sent the plague of darkness so much that they could feel it for three days.

Verse 24: “And Pharaoh called for Moses, and said, ‘You go serve the LORD. Only let your flocks and your herds be left...’” In other words, now you’re going to leave all the animals, because we need them! Let your little ones also go with you.’ And Moses said, ‘You must give us also sacrifices and burnt offerings so that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God. Our livestock also shall go with us. There shall not be a hoof left behind, for we must take from them to serve the LORD our God. And we do not know *with* what we must serve the LORD until we come there.’ But the LORD hardened

Pharaoh’s heart, and he would not let them go.... [notice Pharaoh’s attitude] ...And Pharaoh said to him, ‘**Get away from me! Take heed to yourself! See my face no more, for in the day you see my face you shall die.**’ And Moses said, ‘You have spoken well. I will never see your face again’” (vs 24-29).

IF you harden your heart, ***God hardens it!***
If you come to repentance a little bit and don’t change your heart, ***then God hardens it even more!***
So, it becomes a progressive thing. That’s why the heart is so important.

Let’s see how this worked in the New Testament. 2-Pet. 2 talks about all the false teachers and things that would come in. We’ve had plenty of those today, haven’t we?

2-Peter 2:10: “But particularly those who walk after *the* flesh in corrupting lust, and hold in utter contempt *the* lordship of God. They are audacious and self-willed. They are not afraid to blaspheme *the* Divine powers whereas angels, who are greater in strength and power, do not bring a railing condemnation against them before *the* Lord. But these—as irrational brute beasts, born to be caught and destroyed—**blaspheme those things of which they are ignorant**, and shall be utterly destroyed in their own corruption. They are bringing upon themselves *the* reward of unrighteousness, while finding pleasure in satisfying *their* lustful desires day-by-day. *They are* stains and blemishes, reveling in their own deceptions, while feasting together with you” (vs 10-13).

That’s why sometimes our church experience becomes very hard to endure. It’s not God, it’s not you; it’s those who have come in deceiving themselves deliberately to undermine faith and change.

Verse 14: “Having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, *they are engaged in* seducing unstable souls, having a heart trained in *lustful* cravings—cursed children.”

This is the ultimate of it. The same thing that happened with Pharaoh, happened with these teachers. As far as a teacher is concerned, you need to be very, very careful.

- When Christ came, did He speak a word of Himself? *No!*
- When Christ taught, did He speak His own opinion as the Word of God? *No!*
- Did He do anything contrary to the Word of God? *No!*

He said, ‘***I do as the Father has given Me commandment, so speak I.***’

Deuteronomy 18:18: “I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, *One* like you, and will put My words in His mouth. And He shall speak to them all that I shall command Him.” That’s what Jesus did. {note sermon: *That Prophet*} **Whom God sends speaks the words of God!**

Verse 19: “And it shall come to pass, whatever man will not hearken to My words, which He shall speak in My name, I will require *it* of him. But **the prophet who shall presume to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak...** [include writing in that] **...or who shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die**” (vs 19-20),

So, when we have circumstances as Peter describes with these men who have snuck in, they have hardened their hearts.

2-Peter 2:14: “...*they are engaged in seducing unstable souls, having a heart trained in lustful cravings—cursed children.*”

How does this happen? *A bit at a time! A little leaven leavens the whole lump!* You will see that time and time again when you have those who come along and harden their hearts and begin teaching and writing false things. What happens?

Verse 15: “Who have abandoned the straight way. They have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, *the son* of Beor, who loved *the* reward of wickedness. But he received a rebuke for his own transgression; *the* dumb donkey, speaking in a man’s voice, restrained the madness of the prophet. These *false prophets* are fountains without water, clouds driven by a storm, for whom is reserved the blackest of darkness forever.... [eternal death] ...For they speak bombastic *words* of vanity... [instead of the words of God] ...enticing *others* through *the* lusts of *the* flesh by granting indulgences to sin, and *ensnaring* those who had indeed escaped from those who live in deception. While promising them freedom...” (vs 15-19)—new ways, whatever!

“...they themselves are actually slaves of corruption because by whatever anyone is overcome, he is also held in bondage” (v 19). Why? ***It all starts with the hardening of the heart! Then you start speaking evil of God’s way!***

Verse 20: “For if, after escaping the moral defilements of the world through *the* knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they again become entangled in them, and are overcome, the final end is worse than the beginning.” *That’s a terrible situation to get into!*

When you let your heart continue to be hard and your harden and harden it, then God hardens it, and circumstances come along that create great

troubles for that individual or for you. They don’t repent! They don’t change! They don’t turn!

Then something happens with their heart and mind and they will not hear! They will not listen!

Verse 21: “For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than, after knowing *it*, to turn back from the Holy commandment *that was* delivered to them. But the *pronouncement found* in the true proverb has happened to them: *The dog has returned to eat his own vomit; and the sow that was washed has returned to her wallowing place in the filthy mire*” (vs 21-22).

What happens is that sin comes in! When you want to retain sin, *you harden your heart!* When you want to retain the things that are not right with God, you *harden your heart!* We’re dealing with some very important and profound things.

Hebrews 3:7: “For this reason, even as the Holy Spirit says, ‘**Today, if you will hear His voice...**’”—*every day!*

- you’ve got to hear the voice of God every day
- you’ve got to have a heart that is tender
- you’ve got to have a heart that is right
- you’ve got to have a heart that is seeking God’s way

Every day! Why? Because if you don’t:

Verse 8: “‘**Harden not your heart**, as in the rebellion, in the day of temptation in the wilderness, where your fathers tempted Me *and* tried Me, and saw My works forty years. Because of this, I was indignant with that generation, and said, “They are always going astray in their hearts, and they have not known My ways.” So, I swore in My wrath, “If they shall enter into My rest—” Beware, brethren, lest perhaps there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in apostatizing from *the* living God” (vs 8-12)—*because that’s what happens!*

Verse 13: “Rather, be encouraging one another each day, while it is called ‘today,’ so that none of you become hardened by *the* deceitfulness of sin.” *That’s what happens!*

- you’re given over to your own way
- you’re given over to your own deceit
- you’re given over to things that harden the heart

Verse 14: “For we are companions of Christ, if we truly hold the confidence *that we had* at the beginning steadfast until the end. As it is being said, ‘Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden

your hearts, as in the rebellion.” (vs 14-15).

All Scriptures from The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version

Scriptural References:

- 1) Proverbs 31:30
- 2) Isaiah 3:16-25
- 3) Zechariah 12:1
- 4) Job 32:8
- 5) 1 Corinthians 1:9-12
- 6) 1 John 2:15-17
- 7) 1 Corinthians 2:12
- 8) Romans 8:14-16
- 9) 1 Corinthians 2:13-14
- 10) Acts 15:8-9
- 11) Proverbs 4:20-27
- 12) 1 Kings 8:22-24, 44-52
- 13) Daniel 9:1-8, 16-21
- 14) Deuteronomy 30:1-3
- 15) Psalm 78:31-41
- 16) Joel 2:11-14
- 17) 2 Chronicles 15:1-2
- 18) Acts 17:22-31
- 19) 2 Chronicles 15:2-9, 12-19
- 20) 2 Chronicles 16:1-7, 9
- 21) Revelation 5:6
- 22) 2 Chronicles 16:9-10
- 23) Psalm 40:6-10
- 24) Psalm 119:1-3, 9-10, 32, 36-37, 80, 111-112
- 25) Proverbs 21:29
- 26) Exodus 8:19, 32
- 27) Exodus 9:12, 7, 27-28, 34-35
- 28) Exodus 10:3, 16-20, 24-29
- 29) 2 Peter 2:10-14
- 30) Deuteronomy 18:18-20
- 31) 2 Peter 2:14-22
- 32) Hebrews 3:7-15

Scriptures quoted, not referenced:

- Deuteronomy 28; 29
- Revelation 7

Also referenced: Sermon: *That Prophet*

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The Heart/Mind Connection III Penalties for a Hardened Heart

Fred R Coulter

Other parts of the body also have neuro cells in them, too. Most of the major organs of the body—the liver, adrenals, thyroid and eyes—are a direct extension of the mind, going to the back part of the brain. All of these act as kind of substations or service stations to the mind.

The overall glands of the whole body are directed and controlled by the pituitary gland, which is the major endocrine gland of the body. All of these are functioning, they are not thinking, and there's a difference between it.

So, the Bible, in talking about the heart, is talking about ***the deepest part of the mind*** where you as a person really are.

Today, we're going to look at what the Bible says about the heart. Remember, the heart is not the organ that is beating down in your chest. The heart, as far as the Bible is concerned, ***is the emotional and deepest part of your mental being!*** 'As a man think in his heart, so he is.' That's important!

People can put up many different expressions outwardly to other people, but they never reveal the innermost part of their being, of their heart.

Proverbs 4:23: "Above all guard the door of your mind... [the heart] ...with diligence..." In other words, your heart is the most important part of your existence and being. You have to ***keep it with all diligence!***

- this means that we have control over it
- this means that we are responsible for it
- this means that we have to protect it
- this means that we have to develop and grow in wisdom and understanding

Then you add it God's Spirit to it, and that adds even more.

"...for out of it are the issues of life" (v 23). So, everything that has to do with your human existence as a person has to do with your heart.

Every issue of your life comes right back to your heart, because that is the core of your being before God. Then it talks about how you can protect it.

Verse 24: "Put away from you a deceitful mouth, and devious lips put far from you." In other words, you have to have control and discipline to put these things away. Don't get carried away with it.

Verse 25: "Let your eyes look right on, and let your eyelids look straight before you. Ponder the path of your feet, and all your ways *will be* established.... [That way you establish your heart] ...Do not turn to the right hand nor to the left; remove your foot from evil" (vs 25-27). ***Evil can have a profound affect on your heart or the thinking part of your heart!***

Now let look at some basic things concerning the heart. The book of Proverbs has an awful lot to say about it.

Proverbs 16:1: "The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, **are from the LORD.**"

What this is telling us is that God made us this way. There is nothing that man can do to change it, ***but he must control it!*** God did not make us so that we're robots or automatons.

I was talking to a man who said that he worked in a chip-making plant, and they actually had robots making the chips. So, you have robots making their own parts! But:

- they cannot give heart
- they cannot give spirit
- they cannot give life

You have to have some electricity for that!

God made us this way, v 1: "The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, **are from the LORD.**"

Now you come up with a problem in the way that humans think, because we're going to see that ***man without the Spirit of God is incomplete!***

Man by his own directions—his own way of doing things, in his own way—is always going to end up in problems of difficulties.

Verse 2: "All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes... [because he thinks it, therefore, it's right] ...but the LORD weighs the spirits." God is going to test that; He's going to weigh that.

Verse 3: "Commit your works unto the LORD, and your thoughts shall be established." In other words, that's how you're going to establish your heart.

Verse 9: "A man's heart devises his way, but the LORD directs his steps." That's very interesting, because God made us so that ***we must***

choose, we must plan, we must direct, but God will direct us or lead us in it.

Lot's of times we will do things and wonder why on earth we ever did them. Sometimes we will see that God actually directed that it be done that way. I can look back and see many things that I've done, and afterward wondered why I did them. Later I could look back on it, because we all of great hindsight, and understand it when we look back. That's what God wanted. God hasn't left us alone even in spite of that.

Verse 25: "There is a way that seems right... [upright or good] ...to a man, but the end thereof is the way of death." *This ties in with:*

Proverbs 14:12: "There is a way, which seems right to a man, but the end thereof *is* the way of death."

We go back and look at the story of mankind, beginning with Adam and Eve.

- Didn't the it *seem* right?
- Didn't the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil *seem* good?
- Didn't it *seem* natural?

You know the whole result of that!

Proverbs 21:2: "Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD ponders the hearts."

We might say, in looking at these things, that *in the heart resides your real being!* That part of your mind that the Bible calls *the heart* is your real being. God is going to ponder it, test it, and see what you're doing.

Proverbs 20:11: "Even a child is known by his own doings..." So, it all comes down from the time that you are born your heart is there! It has to be trained and directed.

Of course, that's a very profound thing as far as childrearing is concerned. The other day I had to go down to the county clerk and there was a woman in there getting a passport for herself, her husband and her two unruly brats, because they were going overseas. These kids were on the floor, under the table, playing guns and shooting at each other. The poor clerk was out of her wits, didn't know what to do. *I was patient. I didn't say a word!* But I felt like it! It is true, a **"...child is known by his doings."** Was Christ known by His doings? *Yes, He was!*

"...whether his work is pure and whether it is right" (v 11). It shows that all of the evil does not necessarily have to enter in there. We are responsible for these things.

Verse 12: "The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the LORD has made both of them. Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes and you shall be satisfied with bread" (vs 12-13).

I want to cover one verse to show that God, at any time, can know exactly what is in your mind and your heart. We'll see later on that God ponders the heart and God judges the heart. Then we'll get into what kind of heart that David had.

Christ was speaking to the Church at Thyatira and they were all mixed up in all kinds of doctrinal problems and allowed Jezebel in their midst.

Revelation 2:23: "And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that **I am He Who searches the reins and hearts...**"

Reins must be some kind of connection that God is able to tap into, to see how you are doing, without necessarily interfering with your thoughts or what you're doing.

"...and I will give to each of you according to your works" (v 23).

Let's see some very interesting things. We're going to talk about the way the heart is, and the evils of the heart. God also made the heart so that it could be converted. I want to show this before we get into the evils of the heart, lest people think that there's no way out. There is a way out. We're going to see that the Bible really lays it bare concerning the human heart.

Ezekiel 18:30: "Thus I will judge you, O house of Israel, each one of you according to his ways," says the Lord GOD. **'Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin.'**

God is the One Who leads us to repentance. So, ***the heart is able to be changed!*** You can change your thinking in your heart by repentance. Here's how to do it:

Verse 31: "'Cast away from you all your transgressions by which you have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit;... [which obviously comes from God] ...for why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no delight in the death of him who dies,' says the Lord GOD. 'Therefore, turn yourselves and live' (vs 31-32). ***That's the desire of God!***

I wanted to cover that before I came to Jer. 17, because this is perhaps the most revealing chapter in the Bible concerning the evil of the heart, and also the goodness of the heart.

Jeremiah 17:1: “The sin of Judah is engraved with a pen of iron, with the point of a diamond; *it is* carved upon the tablet of their heart and upon the horns of your altars.”

This is what you call a *hard heart*! The heart is hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. Now let's look at some things concerning *hard hearts*.

We know the whole story Pharaoh, who hardened his heart. Then something else happened: *God also hardened Pharaoh's heart*. So, if a person hardens his or her heart against God, God may even make it even harder like He did with Pharaoh.

Let's see about a hard heart and other things about the heart that we can pick up, too.

Proverbs 21:29: “A wicked man hardens his face, but *as for* the upright, he establishes his way.”

Proverbs 28:14: “Blessed *is* the man who fears always...” Why is that kind of fear important and necessary? *Because it keeps you from hardening your heart!*

“...but he who hardens his heart shall fall into mischief” (v 14).

Then when it's carried even further, Proverbs 29:1: “A man who hardens *his* neck when reproved shall be suddenly broken, and that without remedy.”

- Did that happen to Pharaoh and all of his troops? *Yes!*
- Is that not a real story of life?

When people are being reproved, ***they often will not take correction; they won't yield to God!*** “...shall be suddenly broken... [destroyed] ...and that without remedy.”

There are even problems with hardness of heart in the New Testament. Even Jesus said of His disciples, ‘O you of hard hearts and slow to understand.’

Mark 6:48: “And He saw them laboring in their rowing, because the wind was contrary to them. And about *the* fourth watch of the night, He came to them, walking on the sea, and would have passed by them. But when they saw Him walking on the sea, they thought *it* was an apparition; and they cried out, because they all saw Him and were alarmed. And immediately He spoke to them, and said to them, ‘Be of good courage; *it is* I. Do not fear.’ Then He went up to them into the ship, and the wind ceased. And they were amazed in themselves far beyond measure, and wondered. For they did not understand *the miracle* of the loaves, ***because their hearts were hardened***” (vs 48-52).

Even God, in calling the disciples and the apostles, He showed that the human heart is hardened. Jesus had to correct them several times.

Mark 8:16: “And they were reasoning with one another, saying, ‘*It is* because we do not have *any* bread.’ But Jesus knew *it and* said to them, ‘Why do you reason *that I said this* because you do not have *any* bread? Do you still not perceive or understand? ***Are your hearts still hardened?***’” (vs 16-17).

What else happens when there's a hard heart?

Verse 18: “Don't you see with your eyes? Don't you hear with your ears? And don't you remember? When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments did you take up?’ They said to Him, ‘Twelve.’ ‘And when *I broke* the seven *loaves* for the four thousand, how many baskets full of fragments did you take up?’ And they said, ‘Seven.’ Then He said to them, ‘***Why is it that you still don't understand?***’” (vs 18-21).

The lesson is that of the simple things of life, God is able to make those increase and abound, also having the power of God behind it. But *they hardened their hearts*, and we're going to see that ***it is sin that hardens the heart!***

We're going to see that there's a phenomena that happens. Once a person has a hard heart and does not turn and repent, then it becomes harder. They set themselves more firm in it.

Romans 2:4: “Or do you despise the riches of His kindness and forbearance and long-suffering, not knowing that the graciousness of God leads you to repentance?... [that's we need to repent to God with all our heart] ...But you, according to your own hardness and unrepentant heart, are storing up wrath for yourself against *the* day of wrath and revelation of God's righteous judgment, who will render to each one according to his own works” (vs 4-6).

Let's see what happened to the Israelites, and Paul gives this as a warning. We can see this, because it's quoted from Psa. 95, which is the Sabbath Psalm. What is the thing that ***Sunday-keepers have hardened their hearts*** to? *Sabbath-keeping!*

Hebrews 3:7: “For this reason, even as the Holy Spirit says, ‘Today, ***if you will hear His voice.***’” I want you to notice the choices that God gave them all the way through. The choices that God gave to the children of Israel. This is showing that *today* a change can be made; *today* the heart can be softened!

Verse 8: “**Harden not your heart**, as in the rebellion, in the day of temptation in the wilderness, where your fathers tempted Me *and* tried Me, and saw My works forty years” (vs 8-9). Even after that they still didn’t believe.

Verse 10: “Because of this, I was indignant with that generation, and said, ‘They are always going astray in their hearts, and they have not known My ways.’” That is profound! They were right there with God with them in the pillar of cloud by day, and the pillar of fire by night, *and they still didn’t know the ways of God!* They had a case of **hard-heartedness** that was absolutely astounding.

Verse 11: “So, I swore in My wrath, **‘If** they shall enter into My rest—’ Beware, brethren, lest perhaps there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in apostatizing from *the* living God. Rather, be encouraging one another each day, while it is called ‘today,’ so that none of **you become hardened by the deceitfulness of sin**” (vs 11-13). *That’s how the heart is hardened!*

Verse 14: “For we are companions of Christ, if we truly hold the confidence *that we had* at the beginning steadfast until the end. As it is being said, ‘Today, **if** you will hear His voice, **do not harden your hearts**, as in the rebellion’” (vs 14-15).

That’s really quite a thing! *The choice is always laid before them!*

Verse 16: “For some, after hearing, did rebel, but not all who came out of Egypt by Moses. But with whom was He indignant *for* forty years? Was it not with those who had sinned, whose dead bodies were strewn in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear *that they* would not enter into His rest, except to those who had disobeyed? So, we see that **they were not able to enter in because of unbelief**” (vs 16-19).

This also tells us that **if a person has a hard heart, he or she does not believe!** I think we can see this with some of the things that we have witnessed in the Church in recent years.

Hebrews 4:12: “For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of both soul and spirit, *and* of both *the* joints and *the* marrow, and *is* able to discern... [an expositor of] **...the thoughts and intents of the heart.**” *God knows!*

Verse 13: “And there is not a created thing that is not manifest in His sight; but all things **are naked and laid bare** before the eyes of Him to Whom we must give account.” *That’s why the calling to salvation is so important!*

This is really something! I think one of the things that has happened with this modern age—we have so many modern things and so many accomplishments of men—that somehow *the simplicity of Christ, praying, studying, repenting and yielding to God*, somehow just gets missed!

That’s why we’re called the Laodicean age, they’re lukewarm! But we can come to God at any time:

Verse 14: “Having, therefore, a great High Priest, *Who* has passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, we should hold fast the confession of *our faith*. For we do not have a High Priest Who cannot empathize with our weaknesses, **but One Who was tempted in all things according to the likeness of our own temptations; yet, He was without sin**” (vs 14-15). *God knows!*

Verse 16: “Therefore, we should come with boldness to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

That’s what we need to do constantly! We have enough pulling against the human flesh to pull us down and tear us down, and the temptations of the world. **We need to always go to Christ; always go to God!**

Let’s see the contrast of the human heart. It also affects others. Here with Judah it affected all their children:

Jeremiah 17:2: “while their children remember their altars and their Asherim beside every green tree on the high hills. O My mountain in the field, I will give your wealth *and* all your treasures for spoil, and your high places because of sin, throughout all your borders. And you, even of yourself, have let go of the inheritance, which I gave you...” (vs 2-4). **Because of their hard heart, God took them out of their land!**

“...and I will cause you to serve your enemies in a land, which you do not know. For you have kindled a fire in My anger, *which* shall burn forever” (v 4). **Some people can sin that much, that the anger of the Lord is just kindled greatly!**

Verse 5: “Thus says the LORD, ‘Cursed is the man who trusts in man, and makes flesh his arm, and whose heart departs from the LORD.’”

- How do you trust in men?
Looking to men instead of God!
- or**
Looking to yourself instead of God!
- Is that not trusting in your own flesh?
- Is that not trusting in your own way?
Yes it is!

Verse 6: “For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when good comes....” Won’t even recognize it. *It’s so given over to the hardness of heart*, and departing from God because of sin, *it can’t even recognize goodness!* Can’t even see any good.

“...But he shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, *in* a salt land that is not inhabited. Blessed *is* the man who trusts in the LORD and whose hope is the LORD” (vs 6-7). *Then He shows the contrast!*

Verse 8: “For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters; *it* sends out its roots by the river, and *it* shall not fear when the heat comes, but its foliage shall be green; and he is not worried in the year of drought, nor will it cease from yielding fruit.”

Let’s look at that as an analogy for us spiritually. I think that in all the scattering that we’ve had with the Church, if we are connected directly with God the Father and Jesus Christ, this is what it’s talking about. Jesus said, ‘Come to Me! All that come to Me, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. That is *the Holy Spirit!*

If we have the Holy Spirit and are connected to God, we are just like tree planted by the river. Of course, Egypt is a very good example of it. You’ve got Egypt as a desert country, but you have the Nile River running right down the middle of it. As long as they’re up close to the river, everything is green, everything grows and it’s very productive. Then out on the Delta they have some of the richest, most productive land in the world, and has been for thousands and thousands of years.

Verse 9: “The heart *is* deceitful above all things...” Tie that together with ‘every way of a man is just in his own eyes; every way of a man is clean in his own eyes.’

The human heart by itself, especially as inspired by Satan the devil, is “**deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; who can know it?**” (v 9). You can’t know your own heart by looking into your heart. *You have to look into the Bible and let God’s Spirit help you look into your heart!*

You have to go to Christ and open your heart to Him, because *He is the One Who can show if there’s hardness of heart!* He is the One Who takes it away.

Verse 10: “**I the LORD search the heart...** [ties in with Rev. 2:23] **...I try the reins**, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.”

God is going to do that! That’s just the way

that it is! It’s going to happen in time. The next verse show us that it takes time:

Verse 11: “As the quail that hatches eggs it has not laid...” These are infertile eggs and the partrich or quail is so stupid that it just sits there, and they don’t hatch.

“...in the same way he who gets riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the middle of his days, and in his end he shall be a fool. A glorious high throne from the beginning *is* the place of our sanctuary” (vs 11-12)—*showing again them turning to God!*

Verse 13: “O LORD, the Hope of Israel, all who forsake You shall be ashamed. ‘Those who depart from Me shall be written in the earth because they have forsaken the LORD, the Fountain of living waters.’ **Heal me**, O LORD, and I shall be healed, **save me**, and I shall be saved; for **You are my praise**” (vs 13-14)—*this is Jeremiah speaking!*

Jeremiah even said in one place, ‘Oh, I curse the day that I was born,’ because of what he had to go through as a prophet of God.

Penalties of the Heart

I think it’s amazing how the Bible talks about the heart all the way through. *With the hardness of heart and the deceitfulness of sin, and continuing in that, here’s what God will do!* These are all part of the curses of the covenant that God gave.

Deuteronomy 28:28: “The LORD shall strike you with madness and blindness and astonishment of heart. And you shall grope at noonday, as the blind gropes in darkness, and you shall not prosper in your ways. And you shall always be pressed down and spoiled forever, and no man shall save you” (vs 28-29).

These curses are pretty heavy! Why are they heavy? Read all of Deut. 28, and we will probably live to see in our lifetime a lot of it executed upon the United States. Look at the things that are going on. One man said that he has proved that the United States is Babylon instead of Israel. But he fails to understand that the whole world is being Babylonianized! *The whole world!*

Verse 43—concerning Israel: “The stranger *dwelling* among you shall get up above you very high... [he’s not there, yet, but he’s climbing] ...and you shall come down very low.” How did that happen?

Verse 44: “He shall loan to you, and you shall not loan to him. He shall be the head, and you shall be the tail. And all these curses shall come on

you, and shall pursue you and overtake you, until you are destroyed because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God to keep His commandments and His statutes, which He commanded you. And they shall be on you for a sign and for a wonder, and on your seed forever. **Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joyfulness and with gladness of heart for the abundance of all things**" (vs 44-47).

If you serve God because you grudgingly are forced to, that may be just a little better than sinning, but not much. God wants you to:

- obey Him from the heart
- love Him from the heart
- serve Him from the heart
- hope in His way from the heart

Verse 48: "Therefore, you shall serve your enemies, which the LORD shall send against you in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in the want of all *things*. And he shall put a yoke of iron on your neck until he has destroyed you." *That's talking about physical Israel!*

What about spiritual Israel when they fall away? I've talked to so many people whom they used to know in Church and they meet them now and it's kind of like a stranger they are talking to. *Something has been taken from them!* That's exactly what it is. They're back out in the world! Then what is going to happen?

Verse 65: "And among these nations you shall find no ease; neither shall the sole of your foot have rest. But **the LORD shall give you there a trembling heart and failing of eyes and sorrow of mind. And your life shall hang in doubt before you, and you shall fear day and night, and shall have no assurance of your life**" (vs 65-66). *That's what happens when they go into captivity!*

Talking about the atheist, one who doesn't believe in God, and there is a penalty that takes place:

Psalms 12:1: "Help, O LORD, for the Godly man ceases; for the faithful disappear from among the children of men. They speak falsehood each one with his neighbor; with flattering lips and **a double heart** they speak" (vs 1-2).

- they've got a secret agenda behind them
- they have a plan that they're working out and executing

Verse 3: "The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, *and* the tongue that speaks proud things, who have said, 'With our tongue we shall prevail; our lips are our own; who is lord over us?'"

(vs 3-4).

That sounds like the likes of some of those who we can see on television every day, especially the main political figure in the United States, President Bill Clinton. That think that describes his State of the Union speech; he thinks he can get away with everything!

Verse 5: "For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, I will now arise," says the LORD. 'I will set him in safety from *him who puffs at him*.' The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times" (vs 5-6).

It shows the way that we recover from these things is to *always go back to God!* In other words of God, as compared to the words of these atheists men; that's what it's comparing to. "The words of the LORD are pure words..." vs the vain words of men who reject God.

Verse 6: "The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. You shall keep them, O LORD; You shall preserve them from this generation forever. The wicked walk on every side when vileness is exalted among the sons of men" (vs 6-8).

That's what we're seeing happening today. Those are some of the penalties that come.

Psalms 58:1: "Do you indeed speak righteousness, O mighty lords? Do you judge uprightly, O sons of men? Yea! In *your* heart you work wickedness..." (vs 1-2). *If that's not talking about the political experience we're going through today...*

"...you weigh out the violence from your hands in the earth. The wicked are estranged from the womb; they who speak lies go astray from birth" (vs 2-3). *It comes right out of the heart, part of the being!*

Proverbs 10:20—this tells us what God thinks about those things: "The tongue of the righteous is as choice silver..." *That ties in with Psa. 12:6 about the words of God.* That means that the tongue of the just is speaking the words of God.

"...the **heart of the wicked is worth little**" (v 20).

A Perverse Heart

Proverbs 12:8: "A man shall be praised according to his wisdom, but **he who is of a perverse heart shall be despised.**"

(go to the next track)

Deceitfulness

Verse 20: “Deceit *is* in the heart of those who imagine evil...” Another penalty if you imagine evil and deceitfulness.

Proverbs 16:5: “Everyone who is proud in heart **is an abomination** to the LORD... [that’s quite a penalty] ...*though joined* hand in hand, **he shall not be unpunished.**”

It doesn’t matter how many votes you have for your side, how many belong to your party, or how close are you to one another!

Verse 6: “By mercy and Truth iniquity is purged...” Again, we’re coming back to the Word of God, the Spirit of God to clean and change the heart.

“...and by the fear of the LORD *men* turn away from evil” (v 6). That’s how to get rid of that penalty.

It will be interesting to see how the political situation unfolds. We can look back at the whole thing of WWII and Adolph Hitler.

Haughtiness & Pride

Proverbs 18:12: “Before destruction, the heart of man is haughty...” Did that happen? *Yes!* He had success and went into the countries.

Remember what happened when he conquered France and went in to sign the treaty there in the same little train car that they signed the treaty after WWI? Hitler stood there happy and kicked his heels together. When they marched into Czechoslovakia he was uplifted, the greatest thing in the world for all the German people. They went and took Poland, they almost conquered Russia! The winter of the fourth year in Russia was the one that was the beginning of the destruction of Germany.

- it doesn’t happen in an instant
- it doesn’t happen in a day
- it doesn’t happen in a year

But over a process of time, because God also gives time for repentance if a person would be willing to turn. ***But it happens!***

Verse 12: “Before destruction, the heart of man is haughty...” I wonder if we did not see that in the State of the Union message by Bill Clinton in 2000.

“...and before honor *is* humility” (v12).

Proverbs 21:4: “A high look, a proud heart *and* the plowing of the wicked ***are sin.***” All their plans, all their programs, all their works, everything that they do.

I love the Proverbs. It is said so succinctly

that it doesn’t leave much room for commentary.

Proverbs 26:23: “Burning lips and a wicked heart *are like* a broken piece of pottery with silver dross”—the black clunky melted rock that is worthless! That’s what it’s talking about here.

We see that in the way criminals are handled, that when they’re not handled in the right way it brings a penalty upon everyone, not just the criminals; everyone suffers.

Ecclesiastes 8:11: “Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore, the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil”—to continue to do it.

I think that this really explains so much when you come to criminal justice, whether it be for murder, drugs or any illegal activity. Once you the sentence, the judgment, then if there is room for mercy and compassion after that then you have it. But you have the judgment and sentence first, so they don’t think they’re getting away with it.

There’s one other thing that happens and it’s called a *fat heart*. I’ve often thought about that. But when you look at the heart that you have, what happens if it gets too much fat? *They’ve found out that they have found with heart transplants, which now they say is now almost a routine thing!* What they try and do is get hearts of young people, or if a teenager is in an accident and killed and get that teenage heart, and put it into the recipient. They are now finding that teenage hearts have plaque and blockages!

They first discovered this kind of thing during the Korean War, when they found that many of the soldiers had heart problems: closing of arteries and building up of plaque. Teenagers with plaque in their hearts blows my mind. It’s all because of the way that they’re eating. And I’m sure that with the drugs that they’re taking and including the illicit sex that they’re involved in, because it all ties together and affects the whole body.

- it affects the mind
- it affects the heart
- it affects the liver
- it affects your whole body

Isaiah 6:8: “And I heard the voice of the LORD, saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?’ Then I said, ‘Here *am* I; send me!’ And He said, ‘Go, and tell this people, “You hear indeed, but do not understand; and you see indeed, but do not perceive.” **Make the heart of this people fat...**” (vs 8-10).

That’s a good description. If they have hearts that are laden down with fat—and you can

liken that unto sin—or the plaque that clogs it all up, they certainly are not going to live long.

It's the same way *spiritually*. I think it's a good analogy between a faulty heart and being made fat.

“...and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and return, and be healed” (v 10). *That's what happens when people have hard hearts against the Word of God!* Everything closes down. Then you get in more and more trouble *spiritually!*

Negative Things Concerning the Heart

Numbers 32:6—this can be done: “And Moses said to the children of Gad and to the children of Reuben, ‘Shall your brothers go to war, and shall you sit here?’”

In other words, Reuben and Gad already had their possessions east of the Jordan. So, Moses was now saying, ‘You're not going to sit here in your possession and let the rest of them go fight for their possessions.

Verse 7: “And why do you discourage the heart of the children of Israel from going over into the land which the LORD has given them?”

So, there's such a thing as *a discouraged heart, someone who is down and out*. That's a little different than a broken heart, which we'll see next.

First of all you have a discouraged heart, and if you let that weigh you down and carry you down, then you get a broken heart. If you add to that all the other problems: hardness of heart, bitterness of heart, sorrow of heart; that can really take you down.

Psalms 34:14 “Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.” Showing again that you have actively and diligently do it.

Verse 15: “The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry. The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.... [you might say all the hardhearted] ...The righteous cry, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are of a contrite spirit” (vs 15-18). *God is ready to help, even though these things take place!*

Now we'll look some more in Proverbs concerning the heart. These are not necessarily dealing with hardness of heart as we've covered. These are different aspects of the heart. One of the missions of Christ is to heal the brokenhearted.

Proverbs 6:16: “These six *things* the LORD hates; yea, seven *are* an abomination unto Him: a proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, **a heart that plots wicked imaginations...**” (vs 16-18).

That's exactly where we are today in this world. We have so many wicked imaginations producing things that it's just unreal.

“...feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness *who* speaks lies, and he who sows discord among brethren” (vs 18-19).

The one I wanted focus on here is v 18: “**A heart that plots wicked imaginations...**”

Rom. 1—here again we have what happens when men harden their hearts and turn against God, go against Him and do their own way. Here they were at a place where they rejected God. There can't be any harder heart than rejecting God.

Romans 1:21: “Because when they knew God... [there was time when the ancients knew God] ...they glorified *Him* not as God, neither were thankful; but they became vain in their own reasonings, and their foolish hearts were darkened.” *By their very conduct God did this!*

Verse 22: “While professing themselves to be *the* wise ones, they became fools... [with a darkened heart you become a fool] ...and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into *the* likeness of an image of corruptible man, and of birds, and four-footed creatures, and creeping things. **For this cause, God also abandoned them to uncleanness through the lusts of their hearts,** to disgrace their own bodies between themselves” (vs 22-24).

Today they are legalizing homosexual marriages. There is going to come a penalty that will take place as a result of that. We can just look for more disasters than you have ever thought of.

There's a book written by David Hunt, and he shows how that every time there has been official legislation to give license to the homosexuals, disasters hit. He's got this document. Don't be surprised when disasters hit.

- God gave them over
- God is going to give us over
- God is going to give this society over

The society that approves it is in deep trouble with God!

Verse 24: “**For this cause, God also abandoned them to uncleanness through the lusts of their hearts...**”

Again, it goes right back to what is in the

deepest part of their mind and their emotions.

Verse 25: “Who **exchanged the Truth of God for the lie**; and they worshiped and served the created thing more than the One Who is Creator, Who is blessed into the ages. Amen. **For this cause, God abandoned them to disgraceful passions...**” (vs 25-26). Notice:

- God is the One Who causes it
- God is the One Who does it

“...for even their women changed the natural use of *sex* into that which is contrary to nature; and in the same manner also the men, having left the natural use of *sex* with the woman, were inflamed in their lustful passions toward one another—men with men shamelessly committing lewd *acts*, and receiving back within themselves a fitting penalty for their error. And in exact proportion as they did not consent to have God in *their* knowledge, **God abandoned them...**” (vs 26-28). **Again, God gave them over!**

“...**to a reprobate mind to practice those things that are immoral**” (v 28). *Then it lists all the things that come as a result of that!*

Verse 29: “Being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, malice; full of envy, murder, strife, guile, evil dispositions; whisperers, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things *and practices*; disobedient to parents, void of understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, implacable *and* unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who commit such things are worthy of death, not only practice these things themselves, but also approve of those who commit *them*” (vs 29-32).

That’s what happens when the society comes to the point of hardening its heart, *instead of having a broken heart and repent and turn to God!* God is going to have to send this nation off into captivity in order to soften its heart, to give it:

- a heart of fear
- a heart of repentance

To see, as a result of all the horrible things that they have brought upon themselves that they may repent. So, Rom. 1 describes about **the heart that devises wicked imaginations**, a complete exposition of that.

Proverbs 12:25: “Heaviness in the heart of man weighs it down...” Sometimes it’s just sadness. Sometimes people carry around sadness and sorrow a long time. Some people carry it around way too long and they can end up with a broken heart later on.

“...but a good word makes it glad” (v 25). That’s why the New Testament has:

- repentance
- forgiveness
- grace
- mercy
- hope
- faith
- love

to uplift the heart! We have all those things in the New Testament, and that’s why Christ came.

Now we see a different kind of heart, Proverbs 17:20: He who has a **perverse heart** finds no good...”—*a froward heart!* Someone who goes around and does things that are wrong, evil and stupid, and thinks they are good and doesn’t even understand what they’re doing.

Proverbs 22:15: “Foolishness *is* bound up in the heart of a child, *but* the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.”

Of course, that’s why Satan has inspired the societies today, that you don’t dare correct children at all. Look what we have, a society of little monsters running around everywhere.

Proverbs 28:25: “He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife...” *He’s so self-centered and everything that wherever he goes he just stirs up trouble!*

“...but he who puts his trust in the LORD shall be enriched” (v 25)—*made righteous!*

The Contrast of the Heart

I think that Psal. 101 is quite eye-opening! This is contrasting the heart of the righteous vs the wicked.

Psalms 101:1: “I will sing of mercy and justice; to You, O LORD, I will sing praise. I will behave myself wisely in a blameless way. O when will You come unto me? I will walk within my house **with a perfect heart**” (vs 1-2).

Is it possible that through repentance and conversion to have a perfect heart? **Yes! God gives it!** But the person has to be willing to repent and forsake the other things of the heart that we thought through, all the other aspects.

Verse 3: “I will set no wicked thing before my eyes. I have hated the work of those who turn aside; it shall not cleave to me. **A perverse heart shall be far from me...**” (vs 3-4). *This showing repentance. He had a froward heart, but now it’s departing from him, showing that it can be changed!*

“...I will know no evil thing. Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, in secret I will cut him off; he who has a haughty look and a proud heart, I will not allow. My eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, so that they may dwell with me; he who walks in a blameless way, he shall serve me.... [notice the contrast]: ...He who works deceit shall not dwell within my house; **he who tells lies shall not remain in my sight**” (vs 4-7). Apply this to God, that this is God saying this.

- Is anyone going to be in the Kingdom of God who is deceitful? *No!*
- Is anyone going to be in the Kingdom of God who tells lies? *No!*

It says that ‘excluded from New Jerusalem are all liars’ (Rev. 22).

Verse 8: “Every morning I will destroy all the wicked of the land, so that I may cut off all wicked doers from the city of the LORD.”

You talk about a clean sweep going through and getting rid of it! David really had his heart set right.

Psa. 64 is another *contrast between the heart of the righteous and the heart of the wicked*, and it also shows the reason why God has to call us out of the world. We have to be *called out* so that we are not living that way anymore, and why we have Sabbath services every week where we study the Word of God. We go through it and put it in our heart and mind. It all has to do with changing the heart.

Psalms 64:1: “Hear my voice, O God, in my complaint; preserve my life from fear of the enemy. Hide me from the secret counsel of the wicked...” (vs 1-2).

Jesus also prayed that God the Father would *keep us from the wicked one*. That doesn’t mean that the wicked one won’t be out there pursuing us. It means that God is going to deliver us. God will! Jesus prayed that prayer: Do you not think that prayer will be answered? *Yes, it will!*

“...from the rebellion of the workers of iniquity, who sharpen their tongue like a sword and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words; so that they may shoot at the blameless from concealment—suddenly they shoot at him, and fear not. They encourage themselves in an evil plan; they talk of laying snares secretly; they say, ‘Who shall see them?’ They plot injustices, saying, ‘We have made a perfect plan.’ For the **inward thought and heart of man is cunning**” (vs 2-6).

In other words, it so deep into them that it’s almost impossible to get out.

Verse 7: “But God shall shoot at them with an arrow; suddenly they shall be wounded. So they shall make their own tongue a stumbling block for themselves. Everyone seeing them shall shake the head. And all men shall fear and shall declare the work of God, for they shall wisely consider His doing. The righteous shall be glad in the LORD and shall take refuge in Him, and all the upright in heart shall glory” (vs 7-10).

When we finally see that God is intervening to do these things and take care of them, ***then we will glory in God!*** That’s why we’re not to be discouraged and despaired when problems and difficulties happen. Lots of times we think that we’re the only ones in the world that problems. Everybody in the world has problems, whether in the Church or out of the Church.

God has given us the ways and means on how to overcome them, to change and to grow. To come out of those things and have our *heart made perfect!*

I think it interesting that the Psalms and Proverbs have so much to do with the heart. The one I will do on *the heart of David* and what his attitude was, I think will help all of us. Why was David called *a man after God’s heart*? *We’ll find out.*

Proverbs 10:8: **The wise in heart will receive commandments...** [that’s very profound] ...but a prating fool shall fall”—*because he won’t receive them.*

In other words, only those who are wise in heart will receive the commandments of God. Then we start applying that to Sabbath-keeping, the Holy Days and the plan of God; everything like that. Then we understand how important it is to have tender heart before God.

- not hard heart, *a tender heart*
- not a heart of condemning, *a loving heart*
- that doesn’t mean that we back away and don’t make right judgments
- that doesn’t mean that we don’t condemn wickedness

That means that we have a right understanding with a right heart, and we will receive the commandments of God!

Proverbs 22:10: “Cast out the scorner...” There are a lot of scorning people out there that have millions of doctrines it seems.

“...and contention shall go out; yea, quarreling and abuse shall cease. He who loves **pureness of heart**, on whose lips is grace, the king *shall be his friend*” (vs 10-11). *That’s what we have to strive for, a pure heart!*

- Who had to purest heart?
- Who had the most perfect heart?
- *Christ!*
- Is Christ in us give that? *Yes!*
- Can Christ in us lead us through it? *Yes!*

I don't know exactly what this means, but it says here, which is kind of another Proverb of Solomon:

Ecclesiastes 10:2: "A man's heart *is* at his right hand; but a fool's heart at his left."

I'm sure that's not talking about the placement of it, otherwise it would be easy to recognize fools. And we would have to say, since our heart is on the left side of us, *we're all fools!* So, we can't take the literal interpretation of this.

I don't know the implications of it, so if anyone can help me out with that, I would appreciate it. I think it has to do with someone who is right handed, that if you're right handed that you know what you're doing. And if you are right handed you're a fool and it's like using your left hand and you don't what to do and you can't control it.

I know that I'm very predominately right handed, and if I try and do something with my left hand, I'm foolish and awkward and it comes out kind of stupid.

I saw a program where a man had no arms and he learned to do everything with his feet. He even learned how to take care of his own infant son, to change diapers and all that sort of thing. We think we have it difficult with the trials and things that we go through. If someone had both their arms cutoff, they would say, 'Oh my, I just can't do it. I'll just sit back and let everybody wait on me hand and foot.' *NO!* Get up and 'not let this hold me back, I'm not going to let anything take me back.' This is a man who had:

- a heart of wisdom
- a heart of courage
- a heart of determination

to be able to do that! I know that when I saw it, it brought tears to my eyes that a man could do that.

Let's understand that God gives us a heart! In other word, ***with God's Spirit He can change the heart!***

Let's look at when Saul was being called to be king. In order to be king then something happened to Saul, which God did and that made Saul to be king. He gave Saul *another heart*.

1-Samuel 10:9: "And it came to pass when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, **God**

changed him with another heart. And all those signs came to pass on that day." And Saul went on to prophesy and so forth and the people recognized that God had called Saul to be king.

Can God give us another heart? *Yes! A new heart! A new spirit!* That's why He started out with that to begin with. Let's also see that God judges the heart. What happened to Saul later on? *He failed to obey God from the heart, and he went on his own way and rejected God!*

1-Samuel 15:26: "And Samuel said to Saul, 'I will not return with you, for you have rejected the Word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel.'"

Why? *Because after God gave him another heart, that he would be king, he rejected that and went his own way with his own thoughts!* He listened to the people, rebelled against God—which is worst than witchcraft—went against His commandments and didn't repent! Where there's no repentance, that's a rejection of God! So, God had to get a new king. Samuel was told to go down and anoint a new king.

1-Samuel 16:6: "And it came to pass as they came in, he saw Eliab and said, 'Surely the LORD'S anointed *is* before the LORD.' But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his face, nor on his height because I have refused him, **for the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart**'" (vs 6-7).

That's what God looks at. That's why it's *the reins of the heart!* We know the story. Jesse made all his sons pass by twice:

Verse 10: "And Jesse passed seven of his sons before Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The LORD has not chosen these.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your children here?'" (vs 10-11).

God looks upon the heart, and looks at things differently than human being do.

"...And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, and behold, he keeps the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.' And he sent and brought him in. And he *was* ruddy with beautiful countenance and good form. And the LORD said, 'Arise, anoint him, for this is he'" (vs 11-12).

We'll see later that *David was a man after God's heart from his youth!* Even though he did commit grave sins, his heart never turned from God!

Verse 13: "And Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And

the spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah. But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD terrified him” (vs 13-14).

It shows an overt contrast! This study that we’re doing is really quite profound!

Scriptures quoted, not referenced:

- Psalm 95
- Revelation 2:23; 22

FRC:bo
Transcribed: 8/19/18

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Proverbs 4:23
- 2) Proverbs 16:1-3, 9, 25
- 3) Proverbs 14:12
- 4) Proverbs 21:2
- 5) Proverbs 20:11-13
- 6) Revelation 2:23
- 7) Ezekiel 18:30-32
- 8) Jeremiah 17:1
- 9) Proverbs 21:29
- 10) Proverbs 28:14
- 11) Proverbs 29:1
- 12) Mark 6:48-52
- 13) Mark 8:16-21
- 14) Romans 2:4-6
- 15) Hebrews 3:7-19
- 16) Hebrews 4:12-16
- 17) Jeremiah 17:2-14
- 18) Deuteronomy 28:28-29, 43-48, 65-66
- 19) Psalm 12:1-8
- 20) Psalm 58:1-3
- 21) Proverbs 10:20
- 22) Proverbs 12:8, 20
- 23) Proverbs 16:5-6
- 24) Proverbs 18:12
- 25) Proverbs 21:4
- 26) Proverbs 26:23
- 27) Ecclesiastes 8:11
- 28) Isaiah 6:8-10
- 29) Numbers 32:6-7
- 30) Psalm 34:14-18
- 31) Proverbs 6:16-19
- 32) Romans 1:21-32
- 33) Proverbs 12:25
- 34) Proverbs 17:20
- 35) Proverbs 22:15
- 36) Proverbs 28:25
- 37) Psalm 101:1-8
- 38) Psalm 64:1-10
- 39) Proverbs 10:8
- 40) Proverbs 22:10-11
- 41) Ecclesiastes 10:2
- 42) 1 Samuel 10:9
- 43) 1 Samuel 15:26
- 44) 1 Samuel 16:6-7, 10-14

The Heart/Mind Connection IV Turn to God with All Your Heart

Fred R. Coulter

Let's review one Scripture in Prov.4, because I think this is a very profound Scripture; it's something that we need to realize how important it is. When you realize that everything you have experienced, heard and seen has somehow lodged in your mind somewhere.

I suppose that when you're older, or getting older, you start recalling a lot of things that you did in your youth, because that part of your brain is becoming active again.

I don't know the purposed of it. Maybe there are some things that we need to repent of that God let's live through some things that we've done in the past. When I think on those things, and all the foolish things that I did when I was a kid, I tell you, God has got to be really merciful!

Proverbs 4:20: "My son, attend to my words; incline your ear to my sayings."

Let's just put this in the situation that this is God speaking to us, not David speaking to Solomon.

Verse 21: "Let them not depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart." We are going to see how important it is to have the Law of God written in your heart!

Is that not the whole purpose of the New Covenant? *Yes, it is!* God is going to *write them in heart and inscribe them upon our mind!*

Verse 22: "For they *are* life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. **Above all guard the door of your mind with diligence...**" (vs 22-23). This is the most important thing to protect: what goes into your heart, what goes into your mind, and also, what comes out of it.

"...for out of it *are* the issues of life" (v 23). In other words, the whole function of your life, with the heart being the innermost part of your being—that's why you have to guard it, that's why it says to 'keep your heart with all diligence' (KJV). "**Above all guard the door of your mind with diligence...**"

Whatever you let into your mind, it is going to have some effect on you one way or the other. It may have an effect upon you that you want to love God more and keep His commandments more. It may have the effect that you want to get away from evil, the evil that you see—especially for us. For those who don't know God, it has the effect that it draws them into it.

I came across the Disney Channel and they promote witchcraft more than any other for kids that I have every seen. They always have something on witchcraft. Here's grandma teaching the grandchildren how to be witches. For little kids growing up, who have no knowledge of truth or error, Disney is something great and marvelous.

Is it any wonder that we have more witches than ever before? It's just a natural step to go into it. Same thing with homosexuality. Disney promotes that! People don't think that they do, but they do from the very way that they handle the things, the very way that they handle their programs, and the way that they present them.

That's why today that it's so important the ***we guard the door of our mind***, because we have so many things coming to us.

- radio
- television
- CDs/DVDs
- movies
- other people
- Internet

All of these things that come in to affect our mind!

You could say that the mind or the heart can actually be so overloaded with things that it won't know how to handle it. In some ways, that's where we are today with this *information age* and the Internet. There's so much information. They call it 'the Age of Knowledge.' Isn't that interesting? We have never understood how intense this is going to be!

Daniel 12:4: "But you, O Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, even to the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." ***And knowledge has increased!***

Sometimes I get a stack six inches high every week of information that people send me. I like to try and read and keep up on things, but I have so many backlogged that I need to read, that I have to make some choices.

Now, just for my own peace of mind, when I'm in the car I hardly ever have the radio on. Then when I do turn it on, all I'm going through, what happens is that you're 'commercialized to death.' For every five minutes of news, there's two and a half minutes of commercials.

On my radio I have a mute button, so I always push the mute button when the commercials come on; likewise if I'm watching any television. I don't need my brain scattered around with all these silly ads that they have.

Concerning ads on television: They have more shock action to them. In other words, a lot of quick, hard, heavy movement to get your attention. A lot of loud and garrulous colors to get your attention. A lot of the ads now are advertising medicine. Then they give all the side effects and tell you that you may die, but go see your doctor. *It is amazing!*

That's why we have to **guard the door of our mind**, because *out of our mind*—or the heart—the innermost part of our being, which is you as a person, *are all the issues of your life!* That's why you can't let anything and everything into your mind. **You have to close the door on certain things!** You have to avoid certain things just because of the nature of it.

A good way to understand how to do this, a good measure of this: Is it something God will keep during the Millennium? *If not, I try and avoid it!* You can't avoid everything, and you can't be taken out of the world. Sometimes you wished you could, but you can't!

All of these things press in on us. We have to understand what it is we need to do before God to keep our heart and mind, **because out of it are the issues of life!**

Let's see one of the things that takes away the heart, and it does it in such a subtle way that it affects everything that person thinks or does. That's why when people get into justifying things that are wrong behavior and sin, then their thinking tends to become very skewed. They're not able to really understand.

Example: this is not endorsing anyone politically, so don't get all excited. George W. Bush went down to Bob Jones University in North Carolina. Part of the teaching that they have—they are hard-shelled Baptists—is that the Catholic Church is an instrument of Satan the devil and so is the pope. They do not allow interracial marriage or dating.

Because Bush went to speak there, he's hung with being an anti-Catholic, being anti-black, being anti-integration. What happens is that when people get to the point that they are today, **they are not seeking truth!** No one has said, 'What is the truth?' Why don't they want the truth? *We'll see!*

There are many ways to destroy people! There are many ways to captivate them, bring them

into captivity or bondage; you don't have to put chains on them. You can do it in other ways.

Dan. 12 says that *knowledge will increase*, probably meaning all the wrong kind of knowledge, but at the same time **the knowledge of God will increase!** I would have to say that God has been leading us to understand more of His Word, that is true! But with all the increase of knowledge coming—in *this age of knowledge*—notice what happens:

Hosea 4:6: **"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.... [they do not have the right kind of knowledge, the knowledge of God] ...Because you have rejected knowledge..."**

People do that; they don't want to know about God. People would rather be lied to today, because they are so used to being deceived and are in such a deceived state, and their hearts are so deluded because of it, that they will *reject* anything that is true.

It is true that Bob Jones University teaches that the Catholics are an instrument of Satan the devil and so also is the pope. But instead of saying that that is an interesting statement, 'Why do you say that?' It's not being anti-Catholic to say it, to state the truth, to show something right is not being against something. It is to show what is right *vs* what is wrong in hopes that those people would change. It shows that all of those who go along with that whole system, they are all in it, they are all deluded, they don't know and they don't want the Truth.

"...I will also reject you..." (v 6). That's the kind of thing you never want to get into, getting to a point that **God will reject you!** You can have all kinds of trouble and problems and things you need to work on and overcome, **but never get yourself to the point that God will reject you!**

"...from being as a priest to Me. Since you have forgotten the Law of your God, I will also forget your children" (v 6). *There it is, right there!* It is talking about:

- the knowledge of God
- the laws of God
- the commandments of God
- the Word of God

All of it together!

Has God forgotten the children today? *Yes! They're turned over to all kinds of evil under the sun*, beginning right in the public schools. All of these evils are taught and accepted.

Verse 7: "As they were increased, so they sinned against Me.... [and leads to more sin] ...I will change their glory into shame. They eat up the

sin of My people, and they set their heart on their iniquity” (vs 7-8).

Now it comes to the point that the heart gets set on iniquity. It is so trained that it can only survive by doing evil.

Verse 9: “And it has become, like people, like priest; and I will punish them for their ways, and reward them for their doings, for they shall eat and not have enough. They shall commit whoredom and not increase because they have stopped taking heed to the LORD.... [here’s the reason]: ...Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart” (vs 9-11)—*meaning it takes away your real ability to think with the innermost part of your being, because you don’t have:*

- the laws of God there
- the Spirit of God there
- the understanding of it

That’s why people today end up hating God! They don’t want their evil spoken of in a wrong way.

Let’s see how all of this is being dished out today. Right as I speak, the pope is in Egypt, trying to bring all the Coptic Christians into the fold again. He’s going to Egypt and then to the Holy Land, which I would have to say is the unholy land at this point.

Here’s how it’s happening today: Everywhere everything that this whole Babylonian society brings down:

Revelation 17:1: “And one of the seven angels who had the seven vials came and spoke with me, saying to me, ‘Come here; I will show you the judgment of **the great whore who sits upon many waters.**’”

Verse 15: “Then he said to me, ‘The waters that you saw, where the whore sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages.’”

That’s important because we are developing a monolithic society worldwide, and it comes under the term *globalization*. Everything is becoming the same, because it’s all from Babylon the Great.

Verse 2: “With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication...”

Now the World Bank is calling for equality of income, which means: *take from the rich and give to the poor!*

“...and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication” (v 2)—*because whoredoms and wine take away the heart!* And that’s what’s happened. That is exactly what’s happened.

We’re told that ‘as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of man” (Matt. 24; Mark 13; Luke 21).

How evil can evil get before God steps in to do something about it? *Now we have the means of promulgating it even more quickly than ever before, to more people at an earlier age than has ever been in the history of mankind!*

Genesis 6:5: “And the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great on the earth, and every imagination of the **thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.**”

So, the heart can come to the point where there is not even a good thought coming out of it, *only evil!* To the human mind, *a lot of evil appears good!* We can say that of a lot of the technological things that men have designed, created and made.

Let’s just take one example that looks good to men. They’ve been running a series on gene-altered food {GMOs}. They have done this mostly to make money. They have no clue as to what it does to the body. They’ve altered corn, wheat, milk, soybeans, chickens, turkeys, which means that affects everything that comes out. Could it be that some of the diseases that we are having is because these things are not good for the human body? Who knows! But that’s only one area.

Another areas along with genes is that genetic thing that they are doing with babies from abortion. What they’ve actually found—and they’ve denied it for years and years—is order slips from doctors desiring from the aborted fetuses a head, an arm, eyes, and there was price for each one; so, they could run their experiments.

That is *gross evil!* ***Way beyond abortion, as evil as abortion is!***

But a lot of people think that this is good. *Whoredom and wine take away the heart!* They have no feeling, no heart, no compassion, no understanding. And if you’re against abortion, then you’re against women’s rights. It has nothing to do with women’s rights. *Abortion is needed when sin is committed!*

When you look at it, our whole educational system today is weighted on the evil side. The entire educational system:

- false values
- false standards
- false knowledge
- no God

Genesis 8:21: “And the LORD smelled a sweet savor; and the LORD said in His heart, ‘I will

not again curse the ground for man's sake—**although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth...**”

That's why MTV wants to get them as soon as they can. MTV does not influence teenagers; they brag that they *own them!* When you look at them and see all the music that they're listening to, you know that's so! Something happens to them, because it's taking away their heart.

- *It's taking away their ability to think!*
- *It is appealing to all of the evil intents!*

How far is it going to go in this society? I think it's going to go clear to an occult society that's going to be much likened to how they conducted themselves at the golden calf after having received the Ten Commandments. It's just going to be licentious beyond belief!

A mother had a little boy and he had memorized all the Pokemons. Pokemon means *pocket monster* or *pocket demon!* It teaches little children—and he was only four-years-old—and his mother said she wouldn't worry because 'he's real young.' What is this setting him up for in his life? Unless somewhere along the line he gets some correct information and teaching.

“...evil from his youth [up]...” That's what we're dealing with!

Can other people influence you so that your heart will be changed? When you change your heart, remember, you get all emotionally involved in it. We're going to see a classic example in 1-Kings 11, again concerning Solomon:

1-Kings 11:1: “And King Solomon loved many foreign women...” There can be nothing stronger or greater than love. It's got your heart, your mind, your emotions, the whole focus of your entire being.

“...even the daughter of Pharaoh, Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, Hittites; of the nations which the LORD had said to the children of Israel, ‘You shall not go in to them, and they shall not go in to you; surely **they will turn away your heart after their gods.**’” (vs 1-2). *The heart can be turned by other people if you go along with them!*

That's why this ecumenical movement is now becoming so successful in the world, because their hearts have been turned from God. If you're a Buddhist, we accept you and 'you worship God in your way,' and the Jews say that everyone is going to have it their way, and the Catholics and Protestant, 'Let's get along.' **Their hearts have been turned away from Truth** and it's not longer a matter of Truth, but it's a matter of how do we go

along and get along?

Let's see what it says about Truth and the day that we're living in today.

Isaiah 59:12: “For our transgressions *are* multiplied before You, and our sins testify against us; for our transgressions are with us; and *as for* our iniquities, we know them; in rebellion and denial of the LORD, and turning away from our God, talking perversity and revolt, conceiving and speaking from the heart words of falsehood” (vs 12-13).

This is prophecy of today. This is exactly what's happening almost everywhere.

Verse 14: “And justice is driven backward, and righteousness stands afar off; for truth has fallen in the street... [like so much trash and garbage] ...and uprightness cannot enter. Yea, truth fails...” (vs 14-15).

I wonder if that's why Jesus said that when He returns to earth, will He find any faith in the earth? ***Truth fails!***

“...and he *who* departs from evil makes himself a prey....” (v 15)—something to be picked on or is accounted mad. If you tell the truth to people after they've been indoctrinated with lies, after generation they become raving lunatics.

“...And the LORD saw, and it was evil in His eyes that *there was* no justice” (v 15). Let's see what happened to Solomon; he didn't have any judgment either:

1-Kings 11:3: “And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines. **And his wives turned away his heart.**” You talk about oppression! You talk about giving himself over to it! He had all of the accomplices here, 1,000 altogether!

Verse 4: “For it came to pass when Solomon was old, **his wives turned away his heart after other gods.** And his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God as *was* the heart of David his father.” ***Solomon's heart was turned away!***

Verse 9: “And the LORD *was* angry with Solomon because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel who had appeared to him twice.”

We will see that there was a time when it affected the whole population. Today they call it *deviance downward!* In other words, what they are doing they are taking the high standards of the commandments of God and denigrate it and bring it downward, *downward, downward* so that you get into deviance. It's bringing deviance downward *and bringing the standard downward!*

Jeremiah 11:1: “The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD saying, ‘Hear the words of this covenant...’” (vs 1-2).

When we’re going through this, let’s also go back and go over the words of the covenant (John 13-17). In there you will find that in those five chapters you have every experience stated that you will go through in your Christian life, and what the most important thing there is: **to love God!** So, those are the words of the covenant.

“...and speak to the men of Judah and to the people of Jerusalem. And say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD God of Israel, “Cursed *is* the man who does not obey the words of this covenant”’” (vs 2-3).

We’ve lived long enough to see that happen within the Church on more than just an individual basis, too!

Verse 4: “Which I commanded your fathers in the day *that* I brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace, saying, ‘Obey My voice and do according to all that I command you; so you shall be My people, and I will be your God’; so that I may fulfill the oath which I have sworn to your fathers...” (vs 4-5)—Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

In the New Testament we are Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise.’ That also ties right in with the covenant and the Passover.

“...to give them “a land flowing with milk and honey,” as *it is* this day.’ Then I answered and said, ‘Amen, O LORD.’ Then the LORD said to me, ‘Declare all these words in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, saying, “Hear the words of this covenant, and do them, for I earnestly forewarned your fathers in the day I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, even to this day, rising early and warning persistently, saying, ‘Obey My voice.’ Yet, they did not obey nor bow down their ear, **but walked each one in the imagination of his evil heart.** So, I will bring on them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded *them* to do; but they did not do them”’” (vs 5-8).

Everyone walks that way, and today we have that more than ever before. Everyone is literally doing his or her own thing in a way that is just mind-boggling.

Verse 9: “And the LORD said to me, ‘A conspiracy is found among the men of Judah, and among the people of Jerusalem. They have turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers, who refused to hear My words....’” (vs 9-10).

We’ve seen that, too! The Church of God turned back to all of the sins of the forefathers:

- rejecting the Sabbath

- rejecting the Holy Days
- embracing Sunday
- embracing all of the things that are wrong and evil

“...And they went after other gods to serve them. The house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken My covenant which I made with their fathers.’ Thus says the LORD, ‘Behold, I will bring evil on them, which they shall not be able to escape; and though they shall cry to Me, I will not hear them’” (vs 10-11).

We covered in Jer. 7; the same thing was there. Don’t pray for them because God won’t listen! There comes a time when people have set their hearts to evil in such a way. You may want to evil some of the time, but they have just given themselves over to evil that they won’t listen, and your ability to help them or pray for them is very limited. You wish it could be otherwise. Here Jeremiah was confronted with that.

Verse 12: “Then shall the cities of Judah and the people of Jerusalem go and cry to the gods to whom they offer incense. But they shall not save them at all in the time of their trouble. For *according to* the number of your cities are your gods, O Judah....” (vs 12-13).

You need to understand something about even Judaism today: ***It is Babylonianism!*** An older version; most people don’t recognize that.

“...And *according to* the number of the streets of Jerusalem you have set up altars to *that* shameful thing, altars to burn incense to Baal. And you, do not pray for this people, nor lift up a cry or prayer for them. For I will not hear *them* when they call to Me in the time of their distress” (vs 13-14).

We could go on and read even more, but this pretty well covers it.

This is kind of like us living in the world today; Psalm 101:1: “I will sing of mercy and justice; to You, O LORD, I will sing praise. I will behave myself wisely in a blameless way. O when will You come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will set no wicked thing before my eyes. I have hated the work of those who turn aside; it shall not cleave to me. **A perverse heart shall be far from me; I will know no evil thing**” (vs 1-4).

What this is doing is showing that by choice and getting close to God, you can avoid a lot of these things, and that’s how you protect your heart and keep your mind, and keep it in the right direction.

Verse 5: “Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, in secret I will cut him off... [from

friendship] ...he who has a haughty look and a proud heart, I will not allow. My eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, so that they may dwell with me; he who walks in a blameless way, he shall serve me” (vs 5-6).

In other words, knowing that other people can affect his behavior, what he’s doing is saying, ‘I’m not going to be around those other people that will affect my behavior:

- I’m going to stay away from the crowd
- I’m going to stay away from the froward
- I’m going to guard my heart
- I’m only going to be with those who walk in a perfect way

Verse 7: “He who works deceit shall not dwell within my house; he who tells lies shall not remain in my sight. Every morning I will destroy all the wicked of the land, so that I may cut off all wicked doers from the city of the LORD” (vs 7-8).

This is actually God saying this here! No one is going to be in the Kingdom of God who works deceit or tells lies. God is going to destroy all the wicked. But God doesn’t do it until such a time that the wicked has had a chance to hear and the wicked has had a chance to reject.

Psalms 64:1: “Hear my voice, O God, in my complaint; preserve my life from fear of the enemy. Hide me from the secret counsel of the wicked, from the rebellion of the workers of iniquity” (vs 1-2). You almost feel like that living in the world today.

Lots of times we have to do this where we work. We have to sort of insulate ourselves from the behavior of people around us. It’s a difficult thing to be friends enough with them so that you can get along with them, *but insulate yourself from their behavior!* It’s really kind of tricky thing to do!

Verse 3: “Who sharpen their tongue like a sword and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words; so that they may shoot at the blameless from concealment—suddenly they shoot at him, and fear not. They encourage themselves in an evil plan...” (vs 3-5).

That’s what they do! They continually build each other up in their evil and their evil behavior!

“...they talk of laying snares secretly; they say, ‘Who shall see them?’ They plot injustices, saying, ‘We have made a perfect plan.’ For the inward thought and heart of man is cunning” (vs 5-6).

Why? This is describing some very evil people! Note Rev. 2:24, because God had to correct those in Thyatira who had gone into the depths of

satanism. That’s where a lot of this evil being talked about here in Psalms 64 comes from.

Let’s see how God can affect the heart for good! In a right way! This is why we will see that study and prayer and seeking God are so important.

Ezra 6—in this case even God can give you grace and favor in the eyes of other people. This is what happened here after Ezra had setup the temple and the Dedication of the Temple and kept the Passover.

Ezra 6:22: “And *they* kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy, for the LORD had made them joyful...” Notice what they were doing. What does the Feast of Unleavened Bread picture?

- putting out sin
- getting away from the world
- getting these things out of your life

“...and had turned the heart of the king of Assyria to them to make their hands strong in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.”

If you’re right with God, ***God can even make your enemies do good for you!*** Now, here’s something we can look to, and it’s something that Ezra did. Ezra was the great-grandson of Hilkiah the priest who found the Book of the Law during the days of Josiah.

Ezra 7:10: “For **Ezra had set his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it...**” What does it mean to prepare/set his heart?

1. you make up your mind to do it
2. you set your mind to do it
3. you’re open to everything God has to say
4. you’re willing to do everything that God has to say, that God has written
5. you’re willing to seek the Law of the Lord and to do it, and teach in Israel the statutes and judgments

Here’s a perfect example of what it needs to be for anyone who is a minister or teacher: *To seek the Word of God*

- you have to prepare yourself to do it
- you have to work at it
- you have to keep at it
- you have to diligently:
 - ✓ seek God
 - ✓ seek prayer

Jeremiah 24:4: “Again the Word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, “Like these good figs, so I will acknowledge the exiles of Judah, whom I have sent

out of this place *into* the land of the Chaldeans for *their* good. For I will set My eyes on them for good, and I will bring them again to this land. And I will build them and not pull *them* down; and I will plant them and not pluck them up. And **I will give them a heart to know Me...**” (vs 4-7).

That’s very important! God has to give the heart; in other words, God has to do the calling! God has to give that! That’s why in our calling it’s so special! God is the One Who is doing it! As a matter of fact, it’s God the Father Who is doing it! ***If you:***

- love God
- love His Word
- love His laws
- love His commandments

God has given that to you! Now can you see why it was so wrong for Solomon to let his wives turn away his heart from God?

John 6:44: “No one can come to Me unless the Father, Who sent Me, draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

How does God draw someone? *By giving them a heart and desire to know God’s way!* That’s how God does it, and God has to give that heart.

Jeremiah 24:7: “And I will give them a heart to know Me...” What’s one of the ways that we know God? *He that says ‘I know Him’ and keeps not His commandments is a liar and the Truth is not in Him!* And hereby we know that we know Him ***IF*** we keep His commandments! You have to have the heart so that you can!

“...That I *am* the LORD; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God. For they shall **return to Me with their whole heart**” (v 7).

(go to the next track)

Since God is love, which He is, and God is good, which He is, will God want to withhold anything from anyone if they truly seek God and His way? ***NO!*** He’ll make it known! That’s all part of preparing your heart to seek God, to seek His Law, to seek His way!

Job 38:36: “Who has put wisdom in the inward parts?... [God gives wisdom] ...Or who has given understanding to the mind [heart]?” God is the One Who does that!

What is really good about this whole process is that that’s why the whole process of repentance is always available and always there, but ***it has to be repentance from the heart!***

Let’s see how God pleaded with His people. We’ve spent a lot of time in Jeremiah because he talks an awful lot about the heart. We are going to

see the God *gives* repentance so that they can change.

Jeremiah 3:12: “Go and cry these words toward the north, and say, ‘Return, O backsliding Israel,’ says the LORD; ‘*and* I will not cause My anger to fall on you; for I *am* merciful,’ says the LORD, ‘*and* I will not keep My anger forever. Only **acknowledge your iniquity, that you have transgressed against the LORD your God...** [God is always interested in repentance] **...and have scattered your ways to strangers** under every green tree, and you have not obeyed My voice,’ says the LORD. ‘Turn, O backsliding children,’ says the LORD; ‘for I am your husband; and I will take you one from a city, and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion. And **I will give you shepherds according to My heart**’” (vs 12-15).

For anyone who is teaching, they have to yield to God so that they can have the heart—which can give them—to teach.

“...who shall feed you **with knowledge and understanding**” (v 15). That’s the whole purpose of it. Too many people get all involved in to how much power, glory, honor and money; we’ve seen that happen! *God took it all away!* What a shame! Stop and think! That’s because no one turned back to God; ***they turned to all the gods of the world!***

Verse 16: “‘And it will be when you have multiplied and increased in the land, in those days,’ says the LORD, ‘they shall say no more, “The Ark of the Covenant of the LORD!” Nor shall it come to mind; nor shall they remember it; nor shall they visit it; nor shall it be made anymore. At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD...”’ (vs 16-17).

This goes right on into the repentance of Israel as they’re brought out of captivity and the setting up of the Millennium.

“...and all nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. Nor shall they walk any more after the stubbornness **of their evil heart**” (v 17). ***But it takes repentance to do that!***

Let’s see some positive things about the heart: a willing heart, wisdom, trained and all of this showing that it is something we have control over and we are responsible for.

In Exo. 25 God was giving Moses the instructions on how to make the tabernacle and everything.

Exodus 25:1: “And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Speak to the children of Israel that they bring Me an offering. You shall take an offering from every man that gives it **willingly with his**

heart” (vs 1-2).

I’ve given sermons on tithing, and I’ve focused on the heart. Do you give willingly because it belongs to God? There are many different reasons why people do many different things. One thing for sure, whatever you do for God, you have to do it with a willing heart.

- whether that’s keeping the Sabbath
- whether that’s keeping His commandments
- whether that’s guarding the door of your mind

Whatever it is that you’re doing, you have to do it with a willing heart!

When they began building the tabernacle, God wanted to make sure that it was going to be built right.

Exodus 35:5—this shows where they took up the offering: “Take from among you an offering to the LORD. Whoever *is* of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the LORD: gold, and silver, and bronze”—then it lists all of them.

Verse 21: “And they came, everyone whose heart stirred him up...” Here’s a proper use of emotion; being stirred up for a right cause to do what God wanted, *willingly!*

“...and everyone whose spirit moved him. They brought the LORD’S offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all His service, and for the Holy garments. And the men came in together with the women, **as many as were willing-hearted**...” (vs 21-22).

That shows that if you’re going to do that, God can make all of that possible!

Verse 30: “And Moses said to the children of Israel, ‘See, the LORD has called the son of Uri the son of Hur, by the name Bezaleel, of the tribe of Judah. And He has filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of work’” (vs 30-31).

This was just to do physical work to do the things for the tabernacle. He needed all of these things from God, so it had to come from God.

Verse 32: and to devise designs, to work in gold, and in silver, and in bronze, and in the cutting of stones to set, and in carving of wood, to make any kind of skillful work. And **He has put in his heart** that he may teach, he and Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. **He has filled them with wisdom of heart** to work all kinds of work: of the smith, and of the skillful worker, and of the embroiderer in blue, in purple, in scarlet, and in bleached *linen*, and of the weaver, of those who do

any work, and of those who work out artful work” (vs 32-35).

So, even the physical things we do, God gives the skill! If you have a particular job and you need God to add to you knowledge and skill, ask Him to help you in it. But do the same thing that Ezra did, apply yourself to do it.

Whatever your job, whatever your work, whatever you do, ask God to bless you in it and to give you wisdom just exactly like He said here of these men that “He has filled them *with* wisdom of heart to work all kinds of work...”—just a physical thing, regardless of what it is.

Then they has real outpouring of things; Exodus 36:1: “‘And Bezaleel and Aholiab shall work with everyone wise of heart to whom the LORD has given wisdom and intelligence to know how to do every work of the service of the sanctuary, concerning all which the LORD had commanded.’ And Moses called Bezaleel and Aholiab, and **every wise-hearted man in whose heart the LORD had put wisdom, even everyone whose heart stirred him up** to come to do the work” (vs 1-2).

There you have two things working. I can see this happening, especially when the Millennium begins, and all people start going God’s way, all people get together. I can see, especially with us at the resurrection, that God is going stir up our heart and He’s going to add to us. We don’t have very much up here in this ‘old mush’ except the love of God, the Word of God and the Truth of God. We can do certain things, but: What is going to be like to be born into the Kingdom of God and have a spirit mind, a spirit body, and all that God is going to add to us?

Remember that what we have is the earnest, which means it’s just a little bit of a down payment. We only have the earnest of the Spirit. What is it going to be like when the full redemption takes place? It’s going to be something very akin to this. I think it’s going to be just amazing!

Psalms 37:27: “Depart from evil and do good, and live forevermore. For the LORD loves justice and does not forsake His saints; they are preserved forever, but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off. The righteous shall inherit the earth and dwell in it forever. The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom, and his tongue talks of justice. The Law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide” (vs 27-31).

That is a perfect prescription on how you can stay faithful to God. God is the One Who does all of this! Now, there’s a lot in the book of

Proverbs. This gives us more of an idea of what we need to do with our lives, and it will also help us in understanding what we need to do with our children's lives.

I got a nice card from a couple I met in Calgary. When I met them she was expecting; I think she was about two months along. She sent a really nice card and said that they had beautiful baby girl and everything went well. It was really quite a thing for them. She says that as a mother she's a little bit prejudice, because this is the most beautiful little baby girl she's ever seen.

It will also help us understand how we can teach children. Just look at all of the things that caused you problems and sins, look at all of the things that you want to avoid from getting into your mind, and start with your children the same way at the very earliest age. What they need is love, handling and holding, and that's why God designed nursing. That's what God created. That gives stability, comfort, love, as well as nourishment and security. They've also found that babies are less subject to pain when the parents are holding them.

Proverbs 8:5: "O you simple ones... [uneducated; a simpleton is one who rejects education] ...understand wisdom; and, you fools, be of an understanding heart. Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips *shall be* right things" (vs 5-6). This is the Spirit of God personified, showing what the Spirit of God can do.

Verse 7: "For my mouth shall speak truth..." Isn't this interesting? Here the Spirit of God in the Old Testament is personified as a woman. The Babylonian Mystery Religion is personified as a woman who speaks lies, abominations and sins.

Here we have, v 7 "For my mouth shall speak truth..." In the New Testament it is called *the Spirit of Truth, and it will guide you into all Truth!*

"...and wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth *are* in righteousness; there is nothing twisted or perverse in them. They *are* all plain to him who understands, and right to those who find knowledge" (vs 7-9).

That's quite a statement showing how that God's Word has to come right into the entrance of the heart and mind to make a difference.

Verse 10: "Receive my instruction and not silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom *is* better than rubies, and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it. I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge and discretion" (vs 10-12).

In other words, even God's Spirit and the

spirit of man in you can help you increase in your work and job, and whatever you do.

Verse 13: "The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil; I hate pride, and arrogance, and the evil way, and the perverse mouth."

Read the rest of Prov. 8, but the point is that God's Spirit can give all of that to you—***God's wisdom!***

Proverbs 15:28: "**The heart of the righteous studies to answer,** but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things."

This is good admonition for us today. There are almost as many preachers and doctrines as there are people. All you have to be is be like the Bereans, *prove all things! Look into the Scriptures whether they are so, or not!* "...the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things." It doesn't care!

Verse 28: "**The heart of the righteous studies to answer,** but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.... [it doesn't care] ...The LORD *is* far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous. The light of the eyes rejoices the heart; a good report makes the bones fat. The ear that hearkens to the reproof of life shall remain among the wise" (vs 28-31). ***That's all having to do with the heart!***

Verse 32: "He who refuses instruction despises his own soul, but he who hearkens to reproof gains understanding. The fear of the LORD *is* the instruction of wisdom, and before honor *is* humility" (vs 32-33).

Here is some good concrete Proverbs that you can use as guides for running your life and directing it. ***It comes from God's Spirit!***

Proverbs 16:23: "**The heart of the wise** teaches his mouth and adds persuasiveness to his lips." So, you grow in ability to do these various things.

Verse 24: "Pleasant words *are like* a honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones. **There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof is the way of death**" (vs 24-25).

When you contrast those verses and put it together, you know why v 25 is there. When you do it your own way, that seems right, you end up in trouble! When you tie all of these together:

- we receive it from God
- we have to seek it
- we have to prepare
- we have to constantly educate ourselves

That's the thing that's so important, and remember that we are educating ourselves with God's Word and we are preparing for the Kingdom of God. *Our goal is so great that we can't let anything detour that!*

There may be a lot of things that come along to try and deter it from you. There may be upsets or even attacks of Satan the devil. There may be obstacles, but that's why you're to love God with all your heart, mind, soul and being ***above everything else!*** That's why Christ said that ***'if any come to Me and hate not his father and mother, brother and sister, wife, lands, children and yes, his own life also, he cannot be My disciple!'***

We're going to have those things come that are going to try us where we virtually stand alone, and the circumstances around us will look very dire, indeed! But God is there with us; you don't have to worry about it. He's there to help us!

Proverbs 18:15: "The heart of the prudent gets knowledge..."

- the knowledge of the Holy Spirit
- the knowledge of the Word of God
- the knowledge of the Truth of God

is the knowledge that we want! If there's any explosion in knowledge that we need to capture, if it's there to capture, ***it is the knowledge of God and the Word of God!*** Let the world go its way, let it have its knowledge, let it do all its scientific endeavors. *We'll get the knowledge of God!*

"...and the **ear of the wise seeks knowledge**" (v 15).

Now, this shows the need of a close emotional attachment; Proverbs 27:19: "As in water, the face reflects itself, so the heart of man reflects the man."

Everyone has to have someone that he or she can talk to. Sometimes that's difficult to find, and sometimes there are things you need to discuss that is only between you and the individual. If that's the case then be sure to keep the confidence. Don't break any confidence, because then you break the kind of friendship that is here, and you can break the heart.

I've gone through some of those things and Delores has gone through some of those things; we know what that is like. Everyone has to have an emotional attachment.

Now, here's what to do with you get so filled with things in the world and frustrated by things that people are doing, and you have so many problems that you can't think about what you're doing, so emotionally involved in them, what you

need to do is just cut it off and go study the Word of God:

Psalms 19:7: "The Law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul... [it will help you gain your perspectives again] ...the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, **rejoicing the heart**... [and reinvigorate your relationship with God] ...the commandments of the LORD are pure, enlightening the eyes" (vs 7-8)—giving you the true and deep understanding of the Word of God.

Psalms 104:15: "And wine that makes glad the heart of man... [grape juice doesn't make glad the heart of man unless it's first been fermented] ...and oil that makes his face shine, and **bread to strengthen the heart** of man." Isn't interesting that vitamin E comes from wheat germ oil.

I think that we have so many refined foods today that it's almost an impossibility to get away from all of them. But I do think it takes its toll on us one way or the other. You can take a fist full of vitamins all you want, that may stave off a few things, but we have never lived in a time when we have had good, pure, wholesome food the way God intended.

Every once in a while, Delores goes out and she's able to buy some good organic stuff, and it tastes so good. We had some of the black tomatoes and they were a good six-eight inches around, and they were so juicy and tasted so good, and also some organic broccoli. When you can get something that is close to what God really intended it to be, it tastes so good, and you can tell the difference. Also we got some organic lettuce one time and it didn't turn. I think we're so far away from good food.

If you can inspire God; human beings can inspire God by being so wholehearted for God—in a right and a loving way—that God is inspired. Let's notice, first of all, that this begins with repentance.

A lot of people want to avoid the consequences of evil, even though they have done it, rather than to avoid the evil. With people who do that, they have what is called in the New Testament *the sorrow of the world*. In other words, they're sorry they got caught! They're really not sorry that they have done the deed. So, when Israel was in captivity, they're going to learn that they have done the deed and repent from the heart.

Joel 2:12: "'Therefore, even now,' says the LORD, 'turn to Me **with all your heart**...'" The very innermost part of your being is what God wants you to seek Him with. Not just the benefits, because for keeping the commandments there are a lot of benefits. There are people who want the benefits, but

they don't want the heart, they don't want seeking God.

"...turn to Me **with all your heart**, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning. Yes, rend your heart..." (vs 12-13).

This gives hope for those who are hardhearted; they can change, their hearts can be softened. But they are the ones who have to come to recognize it to rend the heart and really seeing how evil *evil* is based upon the Word of God!

"...and not your garments, and return to the LORD your God: for He *is* gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and He repents of the evil" (v 13).

Notice how quickly God forgave the sin of David with Bathsheba. The whole basis of how God wanted to establish the covenant with Israel, even though they didn't have the heart, they could have—as David did with his whole heart—and God would have been with them. Let's see what God asked them to do.

What I like to do when I go through Deuteronomy is put my own name there, because there's a lot of good New Testament teaching here. As a matter of fact, Deuteronomy means *the second giving of the Law*! So, this is sort of precursor of the New Testament.

Deuteronomy 6:3: "Hear therefore, O Israel, and be diligent to *observe* it, so that it may be well with you, and that you may greatly multiply, as the LORD God of our fathers has promised you, in the land that flows with milk and honey. Hear, O Israel. Our one God is *the LORD, the LORD*. And **you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might**" (vs 3-5). *Jesus quoted this as the first commandment!*

Verse 6: "And **these words, which I command you this day, shall be in your heart.**"

Notice how much we've gone through to show how important it is that in the heart the words of God are there. Why? *Because out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks!* Out of the thoughts of the heart, man directs his behavior!

Deuteronomy 5:29: "Oh, that there were such a heart in them..." He knew that they didn't have the heart in them. Not only did He want them to do it, they could have done it in the letter of the Law to a certain point if they really would have wanted to. Here it's showing that even in the letter of the Law they didn't even really want to.

"...that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always so that it might be well with

them and with their children forever!" (v 29).

The history of Israel is going away from God and coming back to God, *going away from God and coming back to God, going away from God and coming back to God!*

Deuteronomy 10:12: "And now, Israel..." Put your name there; what is that God wants from you? God has called you for a blessing, to give you the Kingdom. That's what Jesus said!

"...what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, and to love Him, and to serve the LORD your God **with all your heart and with all your soul**" (v 12).

That's what God wants. That's the whole purpose and meaning of what we're going through today! All the tests and trials that we're going through is to test our heart!

- Do we love God?
- Do we want to seek God?
- Are we, when troubles come along, going to give up on God?
- Are we going to jump ship and go in another ship and commit evil, sin and licentiousness?
- Are we going to be prideful, arrogant and self-serving?
- What is that we're going to be?

Verse 13: "To keep the commandments of the LORD, and His statutes which I command you today for your good? Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens *belong* to the LORD your God, the earth also, with all that is in it. Only the LORD had a delight in your fathers to love them..." (vs 13-15).

God loves us! John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish, but may have everlasting life." *God has called you and set His love upon you!*

Deut. 7—Let's see how this is a New Testament doctrine; let's apply this to us as Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise.

Deuteronomy 7:6: "For you *are* a Holy people... [that's what Peter wrote 1-Pet. 2] ...to the LORD your God. The LORD your **God has chosen you**..."—that's what elect means. Did you know that the word *elect* in the Greek means *chosen or selected*? He has chosen you, *each individual one*.

"...to be a special people to Himself above all people that are upon the face of the earth" (v 6). That is something! That is humbling to know that

God has done that, indeed!

This ought to make your heart go out more to God in love, emotion, affection and understanding of God's way even more.

Verse 7: "The LORD did not set His love upon you nor choose you because you were more in number than any people, for you *were* the fewest of all people."

We could say the strongest, tallest, biggest, most beautiful, most handsome, most intelligent, most gifted. God has called the *weak* of the world. Let's see the spiritual equivalent of this.

I suppose that this is why so many church people get themselves into so much trouble. Even Jesus said that the people in the world know how to handle unrighteous mammon better than the sons of the kingdom.

1-Corinthians 1:26: "For **you see your calling...**" That's what He's telling Israel; so when we apply this spiritually see how it fits.

- 31) Joel 2:12-13
- 32) Deuteronomy 6:3-6
- 33) Deuteronomy 5:29
- 34) Deuteronomy 10:12-15
- 35) John 3:16
- 36) Deuteronomy 7:6-7
- 37) 1 Corinthians 1:26

Scriptures quoted, not referenced:

- Matthew 24
- Mark 13
- Luke 21
- John 13-17
- Jeremiah 7
- Revelation 2:24
- 1 Peter 2

FRC:bo
Transcribed: 8/19/18

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Proverbs 4:20-23
- 2) Daniel 12:4
- 3) Hosea 4:6-11
- 4) Revelation 17:1, 15, 2
- 5) Genesis 6:5
- 6) Genesis 8:21
- 7) 1 Kings 11:1-2
- 8) Isaiah 59:12-15
- 9) 1 Kings 11:3-4, 9
- 10) Jeremiah 11:1-14
- 11) Psalm 101:1-8
- 12) Psalm 64:1-6
- 13) Ezra 6:22
- 14) Ezra 7:10
- 15) Jeremiah 24:4-7
- 16) John 6:44
- 17) Jeremiah 24:7
- 18) Job 38:36
- 19) Jeremiah 3:12-17
- 20) Exodus 25:1-2
- 21) Exodus 35:5, 21-22, 30-35
- 22) Exodus 36:1-2
- 23) Psalm 37:27-31
- 24) Proverbs 8:5-13
- 25) Proverbs 15:28-33
- 26) Proverbs 16:23-25
- 27) Proverbs 18:15
- 28) Proverbs 27:19
- 29) Psalm 19:7-8
- 30) Psalm 104:15

The Heart/Mind Connection V Qualities of the Heart of David #1

Fred R. Coulter

We will a little later start into how it was that David was called *a man after God's heart!* That's certainly something that we want to try and emulate, that kind of attitude and that kind of heart. Then we will finish off with the *mind of Christ*, because that is the ultimate.

If we can have the heart of David and the mind of Christ, then we can always do those things that are pleasing to God. Then God will be with us more. That doesn't mean that we will have fewer trials. The absence of trials does not necessarily mean that God is with you. It says that all of those who will enter into the Kingdom of God that it is 'through much tribulation' that they do so. So, there will be trials.

As I pointed out for the Feast of Unleavened Bread, God delivers us out of them all. Sometimes there are some very sore trials, and David went through some sore trials. We will see how it is that David responded to God.

With All Your Heart

That's what God wants! Isa. 66 is really quite a profound section, and it tells us an awful lot concerning God's attitude toward us, God's attitude toward things, rituals and so forth.

Isaiah 66:1: "Thus says the LORD, 'The heaven *is* My throne, and the earth *is* My footstool. Where then *is* the house that you build for Me? And where *is* the place of My rest? For all these things My hand has made, and these things came to be,' says the LORD...." (vs 1-2).

Even if you have the greatest plan, the finest of everything that can be—like Solomon did for building the temple—*everything he did it with was created by God!* So, God is telling us that there is nothing great that we can do, except:

"... 'But to this one I will look, to him who is of a poor and contrite spirit and who trembles at My Word'" (v 2).

That's the whole key in everything that we are looking to in our relationship with God. That is more precious than all the burnt offerings, than all the temples, all the buildings and the lands.

We have seen that the Worldwide Church of God came to an end. The properties were sold. Why? *Because everyone was looking to the physical things, and not taking care of their heart!* God took it all away from them; it's gone!

Let's see something else that is important that has to do with our heart. Everywhere you go in the Bible and find out the turning point of someone's attitude when they began to do evil, as we've seen, their hearts get lifted up, just like Nebuchadnezzar. His heart got lifted up and he was struck mad for seven years.

Isaiah 57:15: "For thus says the high and lofty One Who inhabits eternity..." I've contemplated that an awful lot. God lives in a totally different level of existence than we do, and He inhabits eternity. This is what He wants to bring us into.

"...Whose name *is* Holy; 'I dwell in the high and Holy place...' (v 15)—which is the Majesty on high, and we have direct access to that through Jesus Christ.

"...even with the one who is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones" (v 15). We will see how contrite David's heart was; that's why he was *a man after God's heart*.

It's interesting that Isa. starts out this way, and also ends this way. Many times you find that what is inspired to be preserved in the Bible, the way something starts and the way it ends is very similar. I think that's interesting, because Jesus said that He is 'the Beginning and the Ending, the First and the Last.' So, we have it here.

Isaiah 1:10: "Hear the Word of the LORD, rulers of Sodom; give ear to the Law of our God, people of Gomorrah" *Their conduct is very sinful!* They think that they are delivered to remain in these sins.

Verse 11: "'To what purpose *is* the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?' says the LORD. 'I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I do not delight in *the blood of* bulls, or of lambs, or of he-goats.'"

Let's stop and think about this for a minute. God commanded that those sacrifices be given in the first place—didn't He? So, the thing is, if they're living in sin, and their hearts are not right, those things are completely meaningless to God. In fact they're a detriment, because what people begin to do is trust in the sacrifice.

Very likely what they did, they began to look at it as if they gave this sacrifice, then God is compelled to respond, much like it is with the

Catholic Eucharist today; that God *must* come and put His presence in there, because the priest commands it. ***That's the same attitude!***

Verse 12: "When you come to appear before Me, who has required this at your hand, to trample My courts? Bring no more vain sacrifices..." (vs 12-13).

If the heart was not right, all of the sacrifices, all of the ritual was not even accepted by God. But then people began to trust in it.

"...incense is an abomination to Me—new moon and sabbath, the calling of assemblies..." (v 13). *Whatever you did was wrong, even the Sabbath Day!*

Have you ever gone to church on the Sabbath Day, in your past experience, and you pray go before you go to church, 'O God, let this be a wonderful Sabbath Day. Last week was not too good, but let this one be good'? You go and by the time you get out of services you're in a bad attitude and you're all upset? ***Yes!***

Well, in that kind of Sabbath, God is not there! Though it's His day that He commanded. This can also refer to *their* new moons, *their* sabbaths, which can refer to any day that they worshipped on. When they worshipped Baal and Ashtoroth, it was on Sunday and they did it right at the temple of God.

"...I cannot endure iniquity along with the solemn assembly! Your new moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates; they are a trouble to Me; I am weary to bear *them*. And when you spread forth your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; yea, when you make many prayers, I will not hear; your hands are full of blood" (vs 13-15). *Then God calls them to repentance!*

This also is what we need to understand today. We can apply the same thing today with the grace of God. God has given His grace that we live under as an umbrella covering us, and bring to us all the aspects of God:

- His love
- His grace
- His mercy
- His righteousness
- His forgiveness

But if we treat that lightly, with the same kind of attitude that they had here, and say that no one can keep the Law, no one has to keep any commandments, Christ ended it all, then we end up with the same kind of attitude that God will have toward us as God had toward them who were doing things at the temple that God said not to do, because the heart, the spirit and humbleness is what God

wants.

Isaiah 66:3: "He who kills an ox *is as if* he killed a man; he who sacrifices a lamb *is as if* he broke a dog's neck; he who offers a grain offering *is as if* he offered swine's blood..."

What was it that Antiochus Epiphanes did? *He offered swine and swine's blood as the abomination that made desolate!* That's how God looks at it.

"...he who burns incense *is as if* he blessed an idol. Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delights in their abominations" (v 3).

Then God turns around and He does exactly what we've seen happen all the time.

Verse 4: "***I also will choose their delusions,*** and I will bring their fears upon them ***because*** when I called, no one answered; when I spoke, they did not hear. But they did evil before My eyes and chose *that* in which I did not delight."

Think about that today when we have the whole Bible, all of God's Word. Then you begin to understand the magnitude of why it is that the properties of the Worldwide Church have been sold. God has destroyed and ended the Worldwide Church of God; ***but He won't destroy the spiritual believers, the true believers with the Holy Spirit of God!***

There are so many lessons for us to learn in that, and it is so profound that we're really going to learn a lot from that.

I look back at the times when Delores and I would go down there [to Pasadena, CA, and the campus of Ambassador College] and it was beautiful, marvelous, a foretaste of the Millennium. It was a type of the Kingdom of God on earth. You could leave money in your little mailbox and it would always remain there; no one would take it. There was no stealing, no lying, it was really great.

But *when they turned*—I think the turning point began to occur when Mrs. Loma Armstrong died—and from that time on things began to go the wrong way.

God was there all the time with His Word. "...when I called, no one answered; when I spoke... [out of His Word] ...they did not hear..." (v 4)—***no one responded!*** But there is always a remnant, because Jesus said that His Church 'would not die out; that the gates hell (grave) would not prevail against it.'

Verse 5: "Hear the Word of the LORD, you who tremble at His Word..." That compares to the ones who don't in vs 3-4. The ones "...who tremble

at His Word...” refers back to v 2, tying it together with the comparison.

“...‘Your brethren who hated you...’ (v 5). I’ve used this many times, because that’s what happened. Isn’t that something, that within the Church of God you end up with all this hatred and fighting?

“...who cast you out for My name’s sake... [in other words, it was done for the name of Christ, and many times in the name of Christ] ...said, ‘Let the LORD be glorified.’ But He will appear to your joy, **and they will be ashamed.**” (v 5).

This is why God wants us to be wholehearted with Him in everything that we do! Let’s see how God wanted this with Israel. Let’s put it all together, because you can’t separate out... That’s why Jesus made the statements like:

- if you love Me, keep My commandments
- he that has His commandments and is keeping them, knows Him

We will see that God wants it with our whole heart.

Deuteronomy 6:1: “Now, these *are* the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments which the LORD our God commanded to teach you so that you might do *them* in the land where you go to possess it, that you might fear the LORD your God...” (vs 1-2).

We always have to have the fear; if nothing else, have the fear. If you have the right kind of fear of God, then your mind will be opened. That’s the beginning of humble and contrite mind and spirit to fear God! Then you’re not being lifted up in your vanity and haughtiness.

“...to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you, and your son, and your son’s son, all the days of your life, and so that your days may be prolonged” (v 2). *God always wanted to do good for Israel!*

It just seems to be that way with this generation. The parents wanted to do good for it, but look at what this generation has done. They’ve kicked God out and they want to *go their own way!*

Verse 3: “Hear therefore, O Israel, and be diligent to *observe* it, so that it may be well with you, and that you may greatly multiply...” Think about that spiritually, too, “...that you may greatly multiply...” in the Holy Spirit.

“...as the LORD God of our fathers has promised you, in the land that flows with milk and honey. Hear, O Israel. Our one God is *the* LORD, *the* LORD. And you shall love the LORD your God **with all your heart**... [that’s what God wants]

...and **with all your soul and with all your might**” (vs 3-5).

Why does God require that? *Because of the great destiny that God has for us! **That we will receive glory and splendor, a spiritual body and spiritual mind, and have residence in the city of Jerusalem in the Kingdom of God!*** The children of Israel had their residence in the land that God gave them. So, likewise, God is going to give us the Kingdom. Didn’t He say that *‘it’s the Father’s good pleasure to give you the Kingdom’?*

Think on that! I know how it is, we get out there and we get all involved in the everyday things that we do, and it’s awfully easy to not be thinking of the things of God. It’s awfully easy—especially in this hurry hustle bustle world that we live in—not to pray, not to study, not to think on God, not to do those things!

But when we do that, then we end up in the Laodicean attitude, which God has been correcting for a long time! That’s why we have to go back to we have to *‘love God with all our heart, mind, soul and might.’*

Verse 6: “And these words, which I command you this day, **shall be in your heart.**” *That’s where God wants them!* That ties right in with what we saw for the New Covenant. God is going to write them in our heart and mind, ***and our sins and iniquities he will remember no more!***

Here we have the same thing, *with all your heart*; Deuteronomy 10:12: “And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways...”

We’re to walk in the ways, the good works that have been created for us to walk in (Eph. 2:10). We’re to walk in the ways of His Sabbath and Holy Days, and all the things of God.

“...and to love Him, and to serve the LORD your God **with all your heart and with all your soul**, to keep the commandments of the LORD, and His statutes which I command you today **for your good**?” (vs 12-13).

Keep that in mind. Always remember this Scripture, because whenever you come across a Protestant that says, ‘God gave the commandments to the Jews to curse them, to destroy them.’ ***NO, He didn’t!*** Their sins destroyed them! Their sins cursed them! ***Not the Law!***

Verse 14: “Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens *belong* to the LORD your God, the earth also, with all that is in it. Only the LORD had a delight in your fathers to love them, and He chose their seed after them, you above all people, as

it is today” (vs 14-15).

The New Testament tells us very clearly that if you are Christ's, then you are *Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise!* So, when it says 'I chose your fathers' that's referring to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

This can be applied directly to us! Paul refers to that many, many times, how that it goes back to Abraham. Just like I wrote in *The Christian Passover* book, the covenant that God gave to Abraham in the three steps of the covenant, and how that applies directly to what we are doing in the New Covenant.

Verse 16: “Therefore, circumcise the foreskin **of your heart**, and be no longer stiff-necked.” This is the whole purpose of the New Covenant. This is actually a prophecy of the circumcision through Christ.

Too many times *people make God in their own image!* Or they try and follow those who are not God's, like demons, of which they don't realize it, but the demons will let people have a certain amount of control over them to deceive them. They think that they have great powers. People always discount God and try and make Him more like a man, even though we're created in His image, *God is nothing like a man!*

Verse 17: “For the LORD your God is God of gods... [understand that He is Supreme, Sovereign] ...and Lord of lords... [not some great and mighty hunter] ...a great God, the mighty and awesome God Who does not respect persons nor take a bribe.”

In other words, He is not a respecter of persons! His laws and commandments are always affective and in motion and work!

Verse 18: He executes justice for the fatherless and widow, and loves the stranger in giving him food and clothing. Therefore, love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the LORD your God. You shall serve Him, and you shall hold fast to Him, and swear by His name. He *is* your praise, and He *is* your God, Who has done for you these great and awesome things, which your eyes have seen. Your fathers went down into Egypt with seventy persons. And now the LORD your God has made you as the stars of the heavens for multitude” (vs 18-22).

It doesn't matter how small, it doesn't matter how little, because God can always add and there can always be the growth that God wants. *God is able to do very much with very little!* I think that's what God wants to show today.

- He doesn't need the buildings
- He doesn't need the colleges
- He doesn't need all of the glitz and glamour

What He needs are *the hearts of the people* and those who are willing to do what He wants.

Also, remember the whole story of Gideon. God said, 'Gideon, I want you to fight the Midianites. Get up an army!' *Lord, I've got 30,000!* 'That's too many, Gideon. Take them all down by the river and you watch those who drink water and lap it up like a dog, choose those.' Gideon ended up with 300! God said, 'Gideon, you send all the rest home.' They had a night attack, because the battle was God's! We need to remember that! The fewer that we are, *the more that God will fight our battles for us!*

Then we trust in God rather than numbers. I remember going into the auditorium in Pasadena and it really made you feel good. You could go into that nice auditorium and you could see all of these people there, all there on the Sabbath. Not only that, they had a morning and an afternoon service. They had comfortable chairs to sit in, they had the choir, everything glitzy and glamorous!

But those things became important and they turned their hearts away from God! Now they're all gone!

Deuteronomy 11:1: “Therefore, you shall love the LORD your God, and keep His charge and His statutes and His judgments and His commandments **always.**”

Verse 13—God says: “And it will be, if you will hearken diligently to My commandments, which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and to serve Him **with all your heart and with all your soul**, then I will give the rain of your land in its due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain and your wine and your oil. And I will send grass in your fields for your livestock so that you may eat and be full” (vs 13-15).

Verse 16—Moses says: “**Take heed to yourselves** that **your heart may not be deceived**, and you turn aside and serve other gods, and worship them.”

Hasn't that happened, over and over all through the history of the children of Israel? But the thing that is just astonishing to me is that it happened in the Church of God!

Solomon is a classic example as we go back to and look at time and time again of what happens to a Laodicean that goes after other gods. It fits the description perfectly.

1-Kings 8:22: “And Solomon stood before

the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel and spread forth his hands toward the heavens. And he said, 'LORD God of Israel, *there is no god like You, in heaven above or on earth beneath, who keeps covenant and mercy with Your servants who walk before You **with all their heart***'" (vs 22-23). Then he refers to David, his father, that he has fulfilled what God promised him.

There are so many examples for us in serving and loving God with all our heart! That's what it needs to be. When we do that, you will find that living God's way will be more joyful. Praying and studying will be more meaningful, and you'll get far more out of it, because your mind is receptive.

It's one thing to study the Bible with a contrite spirit and humble mind and say, 'O Lord, teach me' than like so many people do, especially a lot of the critics who go to the Bible and say, 'Let's see where there's a conflict. Let's see where God is wrong!' You're not going to learn anything that way.

Psalm 86:11: "Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your Truth; unite my heart to fear Your name. I will praise You, O LORD my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Your name forevermore, for great is Your mercy toward me; and You have delivered my soul from the depths of the grave" (vs 11-13).

Of course, in forgiving our sins, that's what He's done! He's delivered us from the lowest hell! Not as the world views hell, but that is the lowest depths of the grave.

Again, we will see that the New Testament, the New Covenant—which it should be called—is built upon the exact same premise that God gave to the children of Israel.

In all the literature that we send out there's a logo of any open Bible, and it quotes Mark 12, which we'll read right after Matt. 22. Here is the greatest thing. In other words, you look back and ask: What is the greatest thing you can do for God? *Here it is right here, and you tie it all together with the other Scriptures: a humble heart and contrite spirit.*

Matthew 22:37: "And Jesus said to him, '**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.**' This is *the first and greatest commandment; and the second one is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."* On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets" (vs 37-40). *Everything that God does is based upon His love:*

- His Law is
- His commandments are
- His statutes are
- the giving of the Prophets and inspiring them

It all hangs on the love of God! This is the sole and core purpose of why God has created man. We'll this repeated in Mark 12. Just like we find in the Old Testament, the New Testament repeats itself on the important and primary things of what we are to do.

Mark 12:29: "Then Jesus answered him, '*The first of all the commandments is, "Hear, O Israel. Our one God is the Lord, the Lord. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind... [and He adds]: ...and with all your strength."* This is *the first commandment*'" (vs 29-30).

The word *first* in Greek is 'protos' that means *the primary*, from which we get the English word. In other words, this is the primary commandments on which everything else has been built.

Verse 31: "'And *the second is like this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."* There is no other commandment greater than these.' Then the scribe said to Him, 'Right, Master. You have spoken according to Truth that God is one, and there is not another besides Him; and to love Him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love *one's* neighbor as oneself, is more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.'" (vs 31-33).

That's quite a profound statement! We covered that at the beginning concerning what it's like if you offer sacrifices without the right kind of heart. It's more than all that.

Verse 34: "And Jesus, seeing that he answered with understanding, said to him, 'You are not far from the Kingdom of God.'...." He said in another place to the Pharisees about more than whole burnt offerings and so forth, '*Now go and learn what this means!*'

A whole burnt offering is pretty expensive. If you take a whole bullock, you talk about offering unto God. It was a sweet savor unto God (Lev. 1).

Acts 8[transcriber's correction]—this is when Philip found the eunuch going on the way back to Ethiopia and he saw that he was reading out of the scroll of Isaiah.

Acts 8:35: "Then Philip opened his mouth and, beginning from this Scripture, preached to him the Gospel of Jesus. And as they were going down the road, they came upon a certain *pool of water*; and

the eunuch said, 'Look, *there is* water! What is preventing me from being baptized?' And Philip said, '**If you believe with all your heart...** [a total commitment to God, an absolute complete commitment to God] **...it is permitted.** **Then he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.'** And he commanded the *one driving the chariot* to stop; and they both went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him" (vs 35-38).

Obviously, he could have had a jug of water there that he could have sprinkled him with, but his baptism would have been sprinkling. You don't travel without water. ***That shows that it's baptism by immersion!***

One other thing, v 37 is missing in the *New International Version*. It reads this way; v 36: What can stand in the way... [hinders me] ...of my being baptized? [v 38]: And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him."

Giving absolutely no condition for baptism! A lot of people think that v 37—if you believe with all your heart you may—that that is not a real commitment. ***It is!***

Verse 37 (KJV): "And Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' And he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.'"

The Heart of David/Mind of Christ

1. Repentance

We will find out about why David was *a man after God's heart!* It was all in his love of God and the love of

- His Word
- His commandments
- His statutes
- His judgments
- praising of God
- seeking after God

We will see that all of those things are the factors of why David was *a man after God's heart*.

Acts 13:22: "And after removing him..."—King Saul! There's another good example. If someone doesn't serve God, He removes him, so God removed King Saul.

"...He raised up David to be their king; to whom He also gave testimony, saying, '**I have found David, the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will perform all My will.**' Of this man's seed has God according to *His* promise raised up to

Israel a Savior: Jesus" (vs 22-23).

This attitude was a type of what Christ's attitude was like. That's what we need to really grasp and understand.

We will examine David's heart and attitude in the book of Psalms. This is a prophecy concerning Jesus, but it also has to do with David, because we saw how David and Jesus were connected in Acts 13.

Psalms 40:8: "I delight to do Your will, O My God; and Your Law is within My heart." We will see other statements concerning that it was within his heart.

Verse 9: "I have preached righteousness in the great congregation; lo, I have not kept back my lips, O LORD, You know. I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not hidden Your loving kindness and Your Truth from the great congregation. Do not withhold Your tender mercies from me, O LORD; let Your loving kindness and Your Truth always preserve me" (vs 9-11).

Notice that at this point David, who gave the inspiration of this Psalm, though there are prophecies of Jesus involved in it:

Verse 12: "For evils without number have encircled me... [he knew the frailty of human nature] ...my iniquities have taken hold on me, so that I am not able to look up..."

2. The battle is God's

The first key thing concerning the heart of David: ***repentance, always looking to God!*** Though he sinned, ***he repented!*** ***Repentance and confessing sins*** is what he did!

"...they are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails me" (v 12). It overwhelmed him. That's one thing we need to understand concerning sin. Sin is just that way, if overwhelms you!

Verse 13: "Be pleased... [look how he pleaded with God to deliver him] ...O LORD, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me"—***God did!***

Verse 16: "Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You, and let the one who loves Your salvation always say 'Let the LORD be magnified.' But I am poor and needy; may the LORD think upon me; You are my Help and my Deliverer; O my God, do not delay" (vs 16-17).

This is the same attitude that he had when he went out and conquered Goliath. The armies were up there all afraid, and here Goliath stomping down the

middle of the valley, almost like an earthquake shaking both sides, and no one wanted to go fight Goliath. David said, 'I'll fight him!'

Saul said, 'Look, you've got to put some armor on, you can't just go down there that way and fight that way, you've got to have some armor.' So, he put the armor on him, but it was too big, didn't fit, and he had never used it, and said, 'I can't do this, I haven't tested it.'

So, David just went down there and took a slingshot and five stones. The slingshot was not the kind like we have with the rubber inner-tube that we pull back and shoot through a Y stick. His was the kind that was two long tongs with a little leather holder in the middle of it. He put the stone in there and whirled it around and get the speed up and then sling it! He slung it and it went straight and sunk into Goliath's skull; he dropped dead!

Today they're trying to say that David didn't really do that. But Goliath had some sort of pituitary disease and just died right there on the spot. **NO!**

The reason that David was able to do that was because he said, **'The battle is the Lord's!'** Keep that in mind; that's whatever battle you have. Whether it's with yourself, your sins or enemies without. ***The battle is the Lord's!***

3. **Praise God with the whole heart**
4. **Seek the will of God**
5. **You're wholehearted**
6. **Joyful in the Lord—rejoice and sing praises to His name**

Psalm 9:1: "I will praise You, O LORD, **with my whole heart**; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High" (vs 1-2).

(go to the next track)

David still trusted in God to fight his battles; v 3: "When my enemies have turned back, they shall fall and perish before You." Think about this in relationship to overcoming sin. ***Sin is an enemy!*** If you let God fight the battle for you, through the power of the Holy Spirit by casting down vain imaginations and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. ***Vain imaginations are the enemy!***

Verse 4: "For You have maintained my right and my cause; You sat upon the throne giving righteous judgment."

Verse 13: "Have mercy upon me, O LORD; consider my trouble *which I suffer* from those who hate me, You who lift me up from the gates of death, so that I may declare all Your praise in the gates of

the daughter of Zion; I will rejoice in Your salvation" (vs 13-14).

So, whenever God does something for you, thank God, rejoice in God. Notice how David just talked to God. So, if you have trouble praying, just read the Psalms and get on your knees and ask God to help these words be your words, and let you be inspired by these words. This will help trigger some ideas in your mind for praying, too.

This way, you have a two-way prayer going. God is speaking to you through His Word, and you are speaking God with your heart. That's the kind of prayer that you need. It's actually a two-way prayer that way.

7. **Always praying to God**

Psalm 17:1: "Hear the right, O LORD; attend unto my cry; give ear unto my prayer, for it is not from lips of deceit"—***always praying to God!***

That ties right in with the New Testament where Paul wrote, 'Cease not praying' (1-Thess. 5).

Verse 2^[transcriber's correction]: "Let my judgment come forth from Your presence; let Your eyes behold things that are upright. You have tried my heart..." (vs 2-3).

That along with a repentant attitude, he was not afraid to have God prove his heart. In God doing that, He's not going to come and crush and destroy him. He's going to grant of His Spirit so that you in coming to God can overcome the difficulties of your life.

"...You have visited me in the night; You have tested me, and You shall find nothing..." (v 3).

There are certain times at night that you will commune with God in such a way that you don't commune any other time or in any other way. Sometimes they will be very heartfelt and overwhelming prayers.

8. **Trust in God**

"...I have purposed *that* my mouth shall not transgress. Concerning the works of men, by the words of Your lips, I have kept *myself* from the paths of the violent" (vs 3-4)—***trust in God!***

9. **Bold in prayer**

Verse 5: "My steps have held fast to Your paths, my feet have not slipped. ***I have called upon You, for You will answer me, O God; incline Your ear to me; hear my speech***" (vs 5-6)—***bold with God, bold in his prayers! Asking God to hear him!***

‘Let us come boldly before the throne of grace that we may find help in time of need’ (Heb. 4). This is boldness, ‘Hear me, O Lord!’

Verse 7: “Show Your marvelous loving kindness, O Savior of those seeking refuge in You; by Your right hand *save them* from those who rise up against them. Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me under the shadow of Your wings” (vs 7-8)—*looking to God to protect!*

Verse 9: “From the face of the wicked who oppress me—my deadly enemies who encircle me.” That shows how they just come against him in every way.

10. Looking to eternal salvation

Notice how David ends this prayer. In spite of everything that’s all around, it doesn’t make one bit of difference:

- all the enemy
- all the people pressing against him
- all the difficulties he’s in

Verse 15: “**As for me, I will behold Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with Your likeness.**”

11. Loving God

Psalm 18:1: “I love You, O LORD, my strength.... [not trusting in his own strength] ...The LORD is my Rock... [that’s what Christ in the New Testament is called] ...and my Fortress...” (vs 1-2). That’s what the Rock of Petros means, a big craggy cliff, which is like a fortress.

“...and my Deliverer; my God, my Rock in Whom I take refuge; He is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower. I will call on the LORD, Who is worthy to be praised, so shall I be saved from my enemies” (vs 2-3). *That’s how we are rescued from them!*

Lot’s of times we try to fight the battles ourselves, but the whole lesson of the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread is that **God will fight your battles for you! God will take care of it!** He will do it **IF** you trust in Him!

12. Kept the ways of the Lord

Verse 21: “For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God.”

David recognized his own sin, but he didn’t go off in willful disobedience to do so, with the one exception with Bathsheba.

Verse 46: “The LORD lives; and blessed be

my Rock, and let the God of my salvation be exalted. The God who avenges me and subdues the people under me, He delivers me from my enemies; yea, You lift me up above those who rise up against me; You have delivered me from the violent man. Therefore, I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the nations, and sing praises to Your name, He gives great deliverance to His king, and shows mercy to His anointed, to David and to his seed forevermore” (vs 46-50).

Not only does God fight the battles, David looked to Him for:

13. Deliverance

You need to do that if there’s something in your life that you need to be delivered from. Come to God and ask God to deliver you from that, to help you from that.

14. Praise God for His creation

Psalm 19:1 “**The heavens declare the glory of God...**” I’m sure that at that time—not having smog like we have today—that when David would go out at night and see all the stars... I imagine that that’s how they say in Texas, that the stars a big! I don’t think I have ever really truly seen the stars in a way that this is describing here: “**The heavens declare the glory of God...**”

I’ve been able to see some photographs that we have on slides that I’ve shown from time to time, and that really shows *the glory of God!* How that out there in the universe there are these galaxies, and they don’t know how many there are out there, but there are billions and billions of galaxies. There must be trillions of stars. They’re all so beautiful and magnificent, and ***the whole power of God upholds that!***

That’s very important for us today, because we have so many things and we’re so gadgetized that we take all of these things for granted.

15. Understanding and Loving God’s Laws

This is David’s view of the Law and what it does. What we’re learning here is to be after God’s heart as David was encompasses many, many thing. It’s not just an emotional ‘fuzzy-wuzzy, goody-woody’ thing! It’s powerful!

Verse 7: “The Law of the LORD is perfect, **restoring the soul**; the testimony of the LORD is sure, **making wise the simple**. The precepts of the LORD are right, **rejoicing the heart**; the commandments of the LORD are pure, **enlightening the eyes**. The fear of the LORD is clean, **enduring forever**...” (vs 7-9).

That's quite a section of Scripture! I think every Protestant ought to read that. All of those who go against the laws, statutes and commandments of God ought to read that. It is the Word of God, and David is going to be in the Kingdom of God, no question about it!

"...the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether, more to be desired than gold, yea, much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb" (vs 9-10).

See how David loved God's laws? Understanding and loving God's laws! We will see that later in Psa. 119.

This shows the purpose of God's Law, v 11: **"Moreover, by them Your servant is warned..."**

If you have God's Law written in your mind, and you have God's Spirit in your mind, and all of a sudden here comes a temptation, which they do; some of them pretty nasty and evil! What do you do with that? *You give it a warning!* The first thing that comes up with God's Spirit and conscience is, 'I shouldn't think that.'

The way that you handle it is that you immediately pray and ask God to help you cast down that vain imagination, because that's what it is that exalts itself against the things of God, and put it away from you. That's the whole operation of it!

"...in keeping them there is **great reward**.... [not a curse] ...Who can understand his errors?..." (v 12). In other words, if you didn't have the laws and commandments of God and His way, how could you even understand what was right and wrong. You'd have no basis of right and wrong; you're just a moralist and humanist in the world.

"...Oh, cleanse me from *my* **secret** faults" (v 12). That's between you and God alone when you go to God and you pray. Everyone has something that God has just left in us as human beings that we have to go to God and have Him help us with it.

Verse 13: "And keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins... [doesn't go out and willfully sin] ...do not let them rule over me..."—*New Testament doctrine!*

In going through the sermons series: *Refuting Sunday-Keeping*, I tell you, it's amazing what they believe, and hatefully, too! I never knew that the Protestants were so hateful in their denunciation of the Law.

- the laws and commandments of God are good
- they show us what sin is

Just like David said, 'Don't let sin—which is the transgression of the Law—have dominion over me.'

Romans 6:14: "For **sin shall not rule over you** because you are not under law... [animal sacrifices for justification] ...but **under grace**... [for justification!] ...What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law, but under grace? **MAY IT NEVER BE!** Don't you realize that to whom you yield yourselves *as* servants to obey, you are servants of the one you obey, whether *it is* of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" (vs 14-16). *That ties right in with exactly what God was saying here!*

Isn't that amazing? *New Testament doctrine found in the 'hated' Old Testament!* But they'll take the Psalms. If the Protestants take the Psalms, then you have to say that this is true.

Psalm 19:13: "...then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer" (vs 13-14).

16. Asking God to Lead him; eyes always toward the Lord

Psalm 25:1: "To You, O LORD, do I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in You; do not let me be ashamed, let not my enemies triumph over me. Yea, let none who wait on You be ashamed; let them be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause. **Show me** Your ways, O LORD; **teach me** Your paths. **Lead me** in Your Truth and teach me..." (vs 1-5).

That's really something! "**Show me** Your ways, O LORD; **teach me** Your paths. **Lead me** in Your Truth and teach me..." What's so important is when it starts out with a verb like that. That gives us an impact to it! That is really something!

"...for You are the God of my salvation; on You do I wait all the day long. Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and Your loving kindness, for they have been of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; according to Your loving kindness remember me for Your goodness sake, O LORD" (vs 5-7).

That's also New Testament doctrine, because He will remove our sins from us as far as the east is from the west, and He will remember them no more!

After you have this, when you come to this point, then David praises God and says, v 8: "Good and upright is the LORD; therefore, He will teach sinners in the way. The meek He will guide in judgment... [now we're back again to the attitude of the ***meekness and the humble heart*** that David

surely had] ...and the meek He will teach His way” (vs 8-9).

Do you understand why none of the scholars and critics understand God’s way? *Very few, because they’re not coming with a meek attitude!* They’re coming and saying, ‘Let’s see how much of this we can get rid of.’ ***It’s the opposite of what God wants!***

Verse 10: “All the paths of the LORD are mercy and Truth to those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.” They’re rough if you don’t keep His covenant and testimonies.

Verse 11: “For Your name’s sake, O LORD, pardon my iniquity, for it is great.” In other words, the whole thing:

- not because I’m praying
- not because I’m humble
- not because I’m looking to You, O God

All of those things count, of course! But for God’s name’s sake, because God’s name is:

- Righteousness
- Mercy
- Truth
- Forgiveness

It’s for His name’s sake! Also with the forgiveness of our sins through Christ. He forgives us *for Christ’s sake, because of what Christ has done!* Not because of what we have done. That’s why repentance and humble, contrite heart and attitude is so important. That’s why we started out this study with that section.

Verse 12: “What man is he who fears the LORD? He shall teach him in the way that He shall choose. His soul shall dwell at ease, and his seed shall inherit the earth. **The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant**” (vs 12-14).

The Apostle Paul talks about the mystery of God, which is the secret; that’s another name for mystery, that we are going to become as God is:

- in inheritance
- in form
- in shape
 - ✓ not in glory
 - ✓ not in honor
 - ✓ not in splendor

We’ll always be below God, but we will share that existence. That secret is with *those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant!*

Stop and think about the times that we grow

in grace and knowledge and understanding. When is that? *That is when we are doing just exactly like David is saying here, that we’re:*

- loving God
- fearing Him
- seeking His way

Then He opens up understanding to us!

That’s part of His secret, because He doesn’t let anybody else know! Isn’t that amazing? *But anyone who has that attitude, God will eventually show!* So, it’s not something that is just to one person, but *to all those who love and fear God!*

Verse 15: “My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for He shall pluck my feet out of the net. Turn unto me, and be gracious unto me, for I am desolate and afflicted. The troubles of my heart are enlarged; O bring me out of my distresses. Look upon my affliction and my pain, and forgive all my sins” (vs 15-18).

What are we seeing here? *An attitude of continual repentance!* In other words, he didn’t just repent once and say that’s good enough, that’s all there is for life. ***NO! Continuously repenting!*** Why? *Because the Spirit of God exposes the human heart and mind for what it is, and that causes you to see more sin in your life!* It’s quite the opposite of what some people think!

Some people wonder, ‘I still have thoughts come into my mind that are evil, am I converted?’ *Yes, you are! And God’s Spirit is revealing that to you so you can repent of it!* So, that you can come to God and ask Him to deliver you from it. God will do that!

Verse 19: “Consider my enemies, for they are many; and they hate me with cruel hatred.” This can also blend in with Christ. There are going to be enemies!

Verse 20: “O keep my soul and deliver me; let me not be ashamed, for I take refuge in You.... [there again, trusting in God] ...Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait on You. Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles” (vs 20-22).

Psa. 63 to me is the epitome of all the things that we have covered up to this point that shows this attitude and shows David’s desire. This Psalm really inspires me every time I read it. You’re going to find that there are certain portions of Scripture that really inspire you. They may be different than ones that inspire me, but this one inspires me.

Psalm 63:1: “O God, You are my God, earnestly I will seek You!.... [notice that attitude, he didn’t delay] ...My soul thirsts for You. My flesh longs for You, as in a dry and thirsty land where no

water is.” *This is why David was a man after God’s heart!*

Compare the attitude of what we just saw of David, let’s see what it’s like in the world today. This is why David was such a man after God’s heart. When you compare it to what it’s like in the world, and you compare it to what most people are:

Romans 3:10: “Exactly as it is written: ‘For there is not a righteous one—not even one! There is not one who understands; there is not one who seeks after God’” (vs 10-11).

How great is it in God’s sight when someone is continually and early seeking after God? Thirsting after God? When God looks down here on the earth, look at the difference.

Verse 12: “They have all gone out of the way; together they have *all* become depraved. There is not *even* one who is practicing kindness. **No, there is not so much as one!**”

You can be guaranteed that in this evil world, just like it is here, if there are people out there trying to seek God, they will find Him. God has His seven eyes, which are the Spirits of God that go through the whole earth to seek those who are seeking after God. ***If you seek after God, you will find Him!***

If you find yourself in a terrible downturn and terrible trouble, you do like David did. Take this example of all the things that we’ve been going through and ***seek God!***

Verse 13: “Their throats *are* like an open grave; with their tongues they have used deceit; *the* venom of asps *is* under their lips, whose mouths are full of cursing and bitterness; their feet *are* swift to shed blood; destruction and misery *are* in their ways; and *the* way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes” (vs 13-18).

That’s really some strong thing! There’s ***none*** that seek after God! How many, even in the Church of God, are seeking after God like David did? With this kind of attitude? ***Notice the fervor that he has in this!***

Psalms 63:1: “O God, You are my God, earnestly I will seek You! **My soul thirsts for You. My flesh longs for You,** as in a dry and thirsty land where no water is.” Tie that together with:

Psalms 17:15: “As for me, I will behold Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with Your likeness.” ***This is what impelled David with his attitude!***

Psalms 63:2: “To see Your power and Your

glory...” What is it going to be like to see the power and glory of God? What an awesome thing that’s going to be! This shows that David was looking forward to the resurrection!

It talks about that we are ‘sown in corruption and raised in incorruption. Sown in dishonor and raised in honor; sown in a physical body and raised in a glorious body.’ We’re going to see God’s power and glory and look at God face-to-face!

- that’s why David was all excited about it
- that’s why he was a man after God’s heart

How many people really truly have that? David is the only one in the whole Bible that it talks about a man, other than Christ, that way.

“...as I have seen You in the sanctuary” (v 2). What I’ve done at the Feast of Tabernacles in showing that when the Ark of the Covenant was retrieved by David, he took it to his own house and built a sanctuary. There was a little tent there where he had placed the Ark. So, when he composed these Psalms and came before God, he was actually right there before the veil looking right into the Ark.

When it says “...I have seen You in the sanctuary,” I don’t know if God gave David a vision of Himself there with the Ark of the Covenant or not, but it says, “...I have seen You in the sanctuary.” It would have to be something like that!

Verse 3: “Because Your loving kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You.”

If you think that you’re under the heavy hand of correction of God all the time, then take the attitude that David had and start praising God for:

- His love
- His mercy
- His kindness
- His goodness

And ask God to lift you out of those troubles, just like David did. ***He will!*** There’s no need to be down that way; let Him lift you out! His “...loving kindness is better than life...” That means this physical life.

Verse 4: “Thus I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips” (vs 4-5). ***Marrow and fatness also refers to eternal life spiritually!***

Verse 6: “When I remember You upon my bed and meditate on You in the night watches.” That’s when a lot of drawing close to God can occur. There are times when you will have restless nights and won’t sleep. Begin thinking on God:

- on His way
- on His love
- on His purpose
- on His calling

Especially think upon the calling, that God has individually—the Father Himself—reached down and has called *you*! The reason He has called you is because you are *you*, meaning that for whatever reason beyond that, God knows!

- surely it isn't because we're great
- surely it isn't because we're rich
- surely it isn't because we're strong

God has called the weak, the despised and the rejected (1-Cor. 1). That's what we are, brethren! That's just the way we are! ***Think on His calling!*** That God has called you to a glorious and fantastic purpose of eternal life, that is so great and glorious that only the Spirit of God can give you an inkling of how great and marvelous that is.

That's what David did! Those times will come at night. Those times will come when you're twisting and can't sleep, and you pound the pillow and things like that.

Verse 7: "Because You have been my help, therefore, **in the shadow of Your wings** I will rejoice"—*God's protection!*

Like the eagle's wings. Do you know how the eagle teaches its young to fly? *Let them get on the mother's back and take them out and then dump them. Let them fly! If they can't fly too good, then they come right underneath and help them again!*

Verse 8: "My soul follows hard after You..." That's what it has to be. His whole soul and being following after God with every fiber of his being.

"...Your right hand upholds me" (v 8). That's why God gives us challenges, enemies, battles to fight, *so that we look to Him for His deliverance!*

Verse 9: "But those who seek my life to destroy it shall go into the depths of the earth. They shall fall by the sword; they shall be a serving for jackals. But the king shall rejoice in God; everyone who swears by Him shall glory, but the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped" (vs 9-11).

Psa. 84 is the companion of Psa. 63 to show the intense desire that David had for God. The intense love, looking to God for all of His goodness and mercy in His very being.

Psalm 84:1 "How lovely are Your tabernacles, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yea,

even faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God" (vs 1-2). *That's quite an attitude!* Now we get more of a greater understanding why David was *a man after God's heart!*

Verse 3: "Yea, even the sparrow has found a house, and the swallow a nest for herself where she may lay her young, even Your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; they will still be praising You. Selah" (vs 3-4). Then what he wants to do is help take this out for other people, not just for himself.

Verse 5: "Blessed is the man whose strength is in You; Your ways are in their hearts"—then showing how great God is with it.

Verse 9: "Behold, O God, our shield, and look upon the face of Your anointed... [as king] ...for a day in Your courts is better than a thousand *elsewhere*. I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness" (vs 9-10).

This is not saying that God is looking for doorkeepers. He'll have angels do that. But what he's saying is that *it's better than all the wickedness and all the things that wicked have.*

Verse 11: "For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD will give grace and glory; **no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.** O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in You" (vs 11-12).

That ties right in with what Paul wrote: ***That all things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose!***

Now we can see more and understand why David was *a man after God's heart!*

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* (except where noted)

Scriptural References:

- 1) Isaiah 66:1-2
- 2) Isaiah 57:15
- 3) Isaiah 1:10-15
- 4) Isaiah 66:3-5
- 5) Deuteronomy 6:1-6
- 6) Deuteronomy 10:12-22
- 7) Deuteronomy 11:1, 13-16
- 8) 1 Kings 8:22-23
- 9) Psalm 86:11-13
- 10) Matthew 22:37
- 11) Mark 12:29-34
- 12) Acts 8:35-38
- 13) Acts 13:22-23
- 14) Psalm 40:8-13, 16-17

- 15) Psalm 9:1-4, 13-14
- 16) Psalm 17:1-9, 15
- 17) Psalm 18:1-3, 21, 46-50
- 18) Psalm 19:1, 7-13
- 19) Romans 6:14-16
- 20) Psalm 119:13-14
- 21) Psalm 25:1-22
- 22) Psalm 63:1
- 23) Romans 3:10-18
- 24) Psalm 63:1
- 25) Psalm 17:15
- 26) Psalm 63:2-11
- 27) Psalm 84:1-5, 9-12

Scriptures quoted, not referenced:

- Ephesians 2:10
- Leviticus 1
- 1 Thessalonians 5
- Hebrews 4
- 1 Corinthians 1

Also referenced:

- Book: *The Christian Passover* by Fred R. Coulter
- Sermons Series: *Refuting Sunday-Keeping*

FRC:bo
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Heart/Mind Connection VI Qualities of the Heart of David #2

Fred R. Coulter

I need to mention that part of the information that came to me concerning *the heart mind connection*—I think it was in the #1 or #2 of this series—they discovered that the heart has neural cells. While it is true it has neural cells much like you have in the mind, but other organs of the body have neural cells, too. That is so the mind can direct those organs and they are more like a remote television that receives signals and can send them back, but it has no directing qualities of thinking.

So, the heart—according to the Bible—is really *the innermost part of your mind* that is called the heart. ***That's where you make all of the issues of life and death and choices before God!***

In part 5 as we were going through what I did, I started listing out all of the things that have to do with *the heart of David*. The ultimate that we're going to see with this message is ***we are to have the heart of David and the mind of Christ!***

I started listing the things that he had that we derive from the Scriptures we covered so I'll review those:

1. Repentance

Repentance is continuous. Also, we couple that with *meekness and humility*.

2. The battle is the Lord's

Whatever the battle is whether overcoming personally are fighting situations or even the enemy directly *the battle is the Lord's*.

3. Praise God with your whole heart

4. You seek the will of God and seek God

5. You're wholehearted

6. Joyful in the Lord

With that we can rejoice in singing praises to God.

7. Praying always to God

That's a key important thing. The longer that you are converted and have the Holy Spirit of God the more that you will find yourself praying in many situations during the day, because God is involved in your life. That's what it was with David praying always to God.

8. Trust in God

9. Bold in prayer

10. Looking to receive eternal life

Or looking to eternal life

11. Love God

That expands out to love God with all your heart, mind, soul and being!

12. Kept the ways of the Lord and not wickedly departed from them

13. Look to God for deliverance

He's our deliverer!

14. Praise God for his creation

15. Always keeping God's laws

16. Asking God to lead you

Then a subdivision of that: *your eyes are always toward the Lord!*

In understanding about the heart of David, you're going to find most of that in the Psalms. Let's begin in Psa. 25; then we will add some other qualities on to the heart of David.

What I want you to see in this is the attitude and approach that David has. Let's realize that this is totally opposite of the world, and this is completely opposite of the Christianity of this world.

Psalm 25:10: "All the paths of the LORD are mercy and Truth **to those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.**" So, we can add:

17. Considered all the paths of the Lord mercy and truth and fears God

In this you also see the part that we have to do: *unto those who keep his covenant and his testimonies*. That's why when you go to John 14 and 15 Jesus said, 'If you love Me keep My commandments.'

Now then, you can take the opposite: *To those who are proud and exalted, all the ways of the Lord are hatefulness and restraints*. That's the way it is in the world. So, this shows the whole complete change that takes place in the heart of David.

Verse 11: "For Your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my iniquity, for it is great."

One thing that we want to really understand here is that repentance is a continuous thing. Ed and Belinda were telling me about a person they know who said, 'I can't repent of my sins because I can't remember them all.' Well, all your sins are in your mind. You *repent of what motivates you to sin*, and that is *carnal self*.

When you are baptized, then your whole being is baptized into the covenant death of Christ. That takes care of all of those that you don't remember. If there's something that you really need to repent about and be conscious of repenting about, you can be reassured that God will bring it to your attention sometime down the road. You can repent

of it at that time.

But you go through the Psalms and it might be interesting just to go through and see how many times that David repents and confesses his sins. *There are many!* This is all the part of the heart of David.

If you understand that the way of man is not in him to direct his paths then that means that were constantly growing and overcoming. We begin to see more and more in our lifetime as we are converted and growing in grace and knowledge how sinful that human nature really is.

This happens after you're baptized and receive the Holy Spirit. It can't happen before your baptized. Before your baptized you can recognize that you're a sinner and the wages of sin is death and you don't want to die. You want God to save you and you begin to fear God to begin to obey Him because you fear God and that's the start.

Then from there you grow in grace and knowledge. Then you come to understand that you keep the commandments of God because they're good. That's a whole complete change; you can see the progress of conversion here.

Then later you begin to see that God has given His Spirit and 'He really loves me; I need to love Him.' The more that you love God the more that you see how sinful your nature is, *the more that you're going to repent*, which means that you're going to love God.

So this is sort of *a short survey of our growing and overcoming as we grow in the way of God and develop the heart of David*. That's why he says:

Verse 11: "For Your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my iniquity, for it is great. What man is he that **fears the LORD**?...." (vs 11-12). *There's a great blessing in fearing the Lord!* Notice what happens if you fear God:

"...He [God] shall teach him in the way that He shall choose.... [showing them the right way to live] ...His soul shall dwell at ease, and his seed shall inherit the earth" (vs 12-13).

18. Understand the secret plan of God

Verse 14: "**The secret of the LORD** is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant."

You can make a whole sermon or study based upon this verse. God has a secret and his secret is revealing to His Church. We understand that. We understand it through the Holy Days. That gives us the plan and the secret of God. That is the

one that most people reject and won't keep. That's why

- they don't know God
- they don't know what He's doing
- they don't have a clue as to what His plan is

You could even go to a Protestant minister or a Catholic priest and say what's God's plan? Well it depends which when you get. If you get a good Catholic who has suffered a lot, he says, 'Well, we need to suffer in this life and it's God's plan to have you reach heaven and to behold the Lord.' *Is that it?* 'Well now, if you don't quite make it you may slip into purgatory. If your relatives have enough money maybe they can buy you out, but otherwise you go to hell and burn forever.'

So, you ask a Protestant what it is, and he's says, 'His plan is to save you.' *Where am I going to be?* 'We're all going to heaven.'

They don't understand the secret of God; *that we are going to be born in His kingdom and share an eternal existence with God the Father and Jesus Christ! That's the secret! But you have to fear Him!*

19. Understand the covenant of God

When you love and fear God, the last half of v 14 takes place: "**...He will show them His covenant.**" That means *He will grant you understanding concerning the covenant of God!*

If you want a more full in-depth understanding of the covenant of God, read out of *The Christian Passover* book the three chapters *concerning the covenant with Abraham that God made with Abraham!*

[In answer to question] Yes, that would show it would be complete, completely burned up! The animals had to be completely consumed with nothing left. The same thing applied to the Passover lamb that the Israelites did. What were they were to do with it? *They were to burn everything, nothing was to be left!*

Likewise with the covenant that God made with Abraham. *We are here because of the covenant that God made with Abraham 3500 years ago!* Isn't that amazing? I know it was really inspiring on The Night to be Remembered when we're all together there for the meal, and we could think back and realize that *that very night that we were observing was the same night in which God promised Abraham!* That's something!

That shows the deliverance of our sins then was promised and given by God *based upon His*

eternal existence and His physical death when He became flesh. That's what it means to show the covenant.

Verse 15: "My eyes are ever toward the LORD... [always looking to God] ...for He shall pluck my feet out of the net." *This shows how God is going to help you and protect you and watch over you and you will be rescued from things that you don't even know about!*

A net is one of those snares that are set for birds. Or you've probably seen in some movies where they lay a net on the floor of the forest and they cover it with leaves and when someone walks in it, it snaps up and catches them in a net. This is what it's talking about it. How many times have we been saved from so many things? *Some of them we may realize, some of them we may never, never know!*

I remember one time when we went down to visit relatives down in Oklahoma. We were going from Oklahoma City to Tulsa right along the freeway, and it was a split freeway with the cars coming this way two lanes in cars going that way two lanes there was a center divide.

I remember driving along and I looked up and all of a sudden here comes this huge truck tire that just came off the truck and it came rolling just full speed right toward our car. I didn't see it until it was right close to us and it went right behind us right between me and the car behind me.

I always look at that and say, 'Boy! God delivered me out of that!' Just a split second later it would've hit the car straight on! When you're hit with one of those, it's history! It just shows how God deals with you. You can probably look back and think in your own life how God has saved you from many, *many*, **many** things.

Verse 16: "Turn unto me, and be gracious unto me, for I am desolate and afflicted."

20. He waited for God

Lots of times if we get out there and we try and force God by doing as will, then we're not waiting for God. But notice what happens when you wait for God even in your troubles.

Verse 17: "The troubles of my heart are enlarged; O bring me out of my distresses."

As a Christian in battling your human nature you're going to have distresses. Today we call it stress. We have the stress of the world to put up with, too, don't we? *Yes!* Here's how you appeal to God, which shows how David was always looking to God:

Verse 18. Look upon my affliction and my pain..." *There is going to come a time in your life where you will have affliction and pain!*

"...and **forgive all my sins**" (v 18). If you want a good Bible study you go through just the book of Psalms:

- forgive my sins
- forgive my iniquities
- lift me from them
- don't turn me over to presumptuous sin
- keep back your servant from great sin

You will see the tender heart that David had!

That's why he was a man after God's heart; he was always repenting! That doesn't mean he was out overtly sinning. He did with Bathsheba, that is true. But this means that *he was understanding human nature and the source of sin from within!* That comes with conviction of the Holy Spirit of God. It doesn't come any other way.

Verse 19: "Consider my enemies, for they are many; and they hate me with cruel hatred.... [this ties in with Christ and all those were after Him] ...O keep my soul and deliver me; let me not be ashamed, for I take refuge in You. Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait on You. Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles" (vs 19-22).

Remember that the ultimate converted attitude that we want to attain is ***the heart of David and the mind of Christ!***

{Note sermons: *How to Develop the Mind of Christ #1 & 2*}

Psalms 62:1: "Only for God does my soul wait in silence..."

If you want through the Psalms and took all of these different things that we've listed down concerning the heart of David, you can key in many, many parts of many Psalms to each one of these points.

"...from Him comes my salvation" (v 1). *David knew that he couldn't save himself!* It had to come from God.

Verse 2: "He only is my Rock and my salvation; He is my fortress; I shall not be greatly moved.... [tie in Psa. 18] ...How long will you imagine mischief against a man? You shall be slain, all of you; you shall be like a bowing wall and as a tottering fence" (vs 2-3).

We find that in Ezek. 13 where God says that the prophets of Israel 'build the wall with untempered mortar.' He says that it's going to fall in a great hailstorm; it's going to fall in the end. Even

David knew it here.

Verse 4: “They only consult to cast him down from his great height... [that has to do with those plotting against Christ] ...**they delight in lies...**” *I tell you, if there’s anyone thing that describes this world that’s it right there!*

“...they bless with their mouth, but inwardly they curse. Selah” (v 4). Wherever you see the word Selah that means *stop think and meditate on this*, and go back and reread the verses again and think on it. Think about how this applies to yourself and how you can bring this into part of your Christian behavior.

Verse 5: “My soul, wait in silence for God alone; for from Him comes my hope. He only is my Rock and my salvation... [notice how this repeats v 2]: ...He is my strong tower; I shall not be moved” (vs 5-6).

- v 2: “...I shall not be greatly moved”
- v 6: “...I shall not be moved”

Verse 7: “In God is my salvation and my glory, the Rock of my strength; my refuge is in God. Trust in Him at all times...” (vs 7-8).

I just imagine going through the Psalms you would see many, many Psalms where it says **trust in God!** Brethren, that’s what we need to do. Ed said that ‘the world has the greatest false faith imaginable when it comes to money.’ Everything that has to do with money is based upon a lie. You may have facts and figures, but the money itself is a lie because it’s not money it’s a debt. Everyone believes that it’s going to go on and on forever, but it’s not! *It’s going to come to an end!* If people really knew that there is absolutely nothing behind the dollar you would see havoc everywhere.

But they all get along and go along, and ‘don’t shake the boat just listen to ‘Uncle’ Arthur Greenspan.’ Whatever ‘Uncle’ Arthur tells you that’s the gospel truth concerning the dollar. **They delight in lies!** Well we can apply that to the Presidency, to almost any politician. One of the first things you have to prove in politics, one thing for sure: *if you want to go anywhere politics above City Council you have to prove that you’re a good smooth liar!* If you rerun for the City Council you got to prove your pretty good liar. Men delight in lies. And you think about it. Think about the whole entertainment industry.

Except the narrations that they do on some true incidences, and then they interject a lot of fiction into it:

- it’s all a lie
- it’s an imagination

- it’s a story

They can teach lessons with it, that is true. But when you look at some of the lessons they are teaching are they teaching the Truth of God? **No!** *They’re teaching the goodness of humans!* So, it’s still all a lie! **They delight in lies!**

Verse 4: “...they bless with their mouth, but inwardly they curse. Selah.” *It sounds like the meetings at that they had back there in Camp David.* Take some of these verses and apply them to real life everyday situations that are going on right now.

Verse 5: “My soul, wait in silence for God alone; for from Him comes my hope.”

Verse 7: “In God is my salvation and my glory, the Rock of my strength; my refuge is in God. Trust in Him **at all times**... [not just when you are in trouble] ...you people; pour out your heart before Him. God is a refuge for us. Selah” (vs 7-8).

That’s how you are to pray to God; from your heart, what’s on your mind. You don’t need some big ritual. You don’t need beads to count. By the way the rosary beads came from the Muslims and the Hindu. You don’t need that. *God wants know what’s in your heart!*

Verse 9: “Surely men of low degree are vanity, and men of high degree are a lie... [the whole political scene] ...when weighed in the balance, they are altogether lighter than vanity.”

What does this tell us about the heart of David? **He is not looking to the things and the ways of the world as a good thing that’s going to help him with God!** He’s viewing the things in the world as they really are. Yet, when you view the things of the world as they really are, *if* you don’t understand about God and the hope that God has it could get pretty depressing! That’s why you have to know God.

It’s one thing to look out and say of the world, **“Surely men of low degree are vanity, and men of high degree are a lie...”**—you could become so discouraged

- if you didn’t know the Truth
- if you didn’t know God’s Word
- if you didn’t have the hope that God had

you’d wonder how on earth is anything going to work!

Notice how David considered it; “...when weighed in the balance, they are altogether lighter than **vanity**.... [just a gust of wind] ...Trust not in oppression, and do not take pride in stolen goods; if riches increase, do not set your heart upon them” (vs 9-10).

That's what happened to Solomon! He was so rich he just got corrupted, and look what happened with his life. So, if riches increase don't set your heart on them. Why? *Because they are only physical!* They are all going to be gone.

It's like Solomon said, he was really upset. He said, 'Now that I've got all this wealth, all these riches, all these things, all these palaces and homes, all these servants and everybody coming and bowing and scraping to me, when I die is the one who is going to receive it to be a fool or wise?'

He turned out to be fool, but you can't take it with you. Some of the Chinese emperors did. They had these statues that they all carved and buried with them, trying to take everything with them. The pharaohs tried to take everything with them. They find these mummies and they find the pharaohs and guess what? *They're dead! They are dead!*

Every time I see these documentaries on the pharaohs and the mummies they show the mummies, and they did this for eternal life. There they are, *still dead!* So, they took it with them, they put it in the grave so they could preserve it, and what happened? *Robbers came and took it!* Isn't that amazing.

If riches increase don't set your heart on it. Whatever you have, enjoy it; but *don't let it come between you and God*, because then that becomes *idol worship!*

Verse 11: "God has spoken once; twice I have heard this: that power... [to receive wealth] ...belongs to God."

Ed is in the construction business and he said that down here at Discovery Bay, right outside of Brentwood, they have all these homes where they fixed up these little peninsulas going out into the delta and you can pull your private yacht right up to your own dock at your own home. They had these beautiful homes that two years ago were selling for \$450,000 and people were snapping them up as second homes. He said that every Sunday it's like one big party out there. Not that they're out there necessarily doing anything terribly, terribly wrong or that there is some kind of orgy or anything; it's not.

But they're all out there putting on their boats, sipping their martinis, playing their cards and having a good time. He said when he finished selling all the houses in that phase—and there's 1,000 more that there going to build someplace close by—they sold the models for \$900,000. Those were snapped up just like that.

I thought of this when I when I went up the Canada and then down to New Zealand and Australia, there's one part here in Deut. 8 that just

rings in my mind every time I see it.

Deuteronomy 8:1: "All the commandments which I command you this day shall you **be diligent to observe** and to do that you may live..." Please understand: *God gave the commandments that you shall live. It is sin that causes death, not commandment-keeping!*

"...and multiply and go in and possess the land, which the LORD swore to your fathers. And you shall remember... [there are things we are to remember] ...all the way which the LORD your God led you these forty years in the wilderness in order to humble you, to prove you, to know what is in your heart..." (vs 1-2).

That's why you go through all the circumstances that you do. God wants to know what is in your heart. That's what's happening to the whole Church of God today. Do you remember they hymn that says: 'He's sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat'? *Yes!* That's what he's doing to the Church of God today, *to know what's in their hearts!*

- Do they love Me?
- Do they fear Me?
- Do they keep My commandments?
- Do they want salvation?
- What is it that they want?

"...whether you would keep His commandments or not. And He humbled you... [you're going to have trials] ...and allowed you to hunger... [so don't worry about it, he'll take care of you] ...and then He fed you with manna... [sent bread from heaven] ...which you did not know, neither did your fathers know *it*, so that He might make you know that man does not live by bread alone; but by every *word* that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD does man live" (vs 2-3). *That's the whole lesson!* That's why David said if riches increase don't set your heart on it.

Verse 4: "Your clothing did not wear out on you... [Can you imagine that all your clothes stayed young? No holes, no tears, no moths?] ...nor did your foot swell these forty years."

Apparently their shoes didn't wear out. How many pairs of shoes do you have half worn out sitting in your closet? Do you have a 40-year-old pair of shoes that have never worn out? *Showing that God is even able to help you with the little meagerness that you might have, if that's all that you have!*

Verse 5: "And you shall consider in your heart..." Notice how much heart is involved here when it gets to the things concerning riches? *We'll*

see that!

“...that as a man chastens his son, *so* the LORD your God chastens you” (v 5). So, you’ll have trials you’ll have correction and those things will come along.

Verse 6: “And you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God to walk in His ways and to fear Him, for the LORD your God brings you into a good land...” (vs 6-7).

He’s giving them warning and saying, ‘Okay the suffering is over the trials are over. Now you’re going into the good land and you’re going to have to get rid of the enemy. But **now I’m going to bless you** the cursings of the wilderness are over.

“...a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey” (vs 7-8).

Think about it when you drive along here today. You have wine because you have the vineyards. You have all the fruits you have lettuce you have all the vegetables. All of those things you can see in field after field and mile after mile.

Verse 9: “A land in which you shall eat bread without scarceness...” Even here when we have a potluck, what happens? *We end up with a super-abundance!* Have any of you here gone without food? *No!*

“...You shall not lack any *thing* in it...” (v 9). Stop and think: What do you really lack? *Nothing!* There may be a lot of things you may want. A lot of things you think you may need. But what do you really lack? *Nothing!*

“...*It is* a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you may dig copper” (v 9)—as well as gold, silver, coal, iron, and all the minerals that come out of the land.

Verse 10: “When you have eaten and are full...” *God expects something from you when you have eaten and are full!* That’s not just because we’ve had a meal and we’ve all eaten and we are full. But he’s talking about when you have everything physically and you are full not only from eating—because you have plenty—but you’re full because you have all the physical goods.

“...**then** you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land, which He has given you” (v 10).

Now then, a problem arises if you don’t. This is where we are as a nation right now maybe even further past that in coming down. So, whenever I drive around and I see all these houses and I see all these things, and I read about some of the prices of

these houses that just take your breath away. I wonder where they this money. I saw some of these houses that they’re selling for \$700,000-plus and if you put down the minimum amount then your mortgage payment is going to be \$6,000 a month! That took my breath away! But the people are snapping them up right and left!

Verse 11: “**Beware...** [there’s a warning] **...that you do not forget the LORD your God...**” *That’s what happens every single time, and that’s what happens to the Laodiceans; they forget God because they’re ‘rich and increased with goods.’*

“...**by not keeping His commandments,** and His judgments, and His statutes, which I command you today” (v 11).

What has happened to the Church? They forgot and said, ‘We’re rich and increased with goods.’

Verse 12: “Lest *when* you have eaten and are full and have built goodly houses and lived in *them...* [which we have, millions and millions of them] *...and when* your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then you become haughty of heart, and **you forget the LORD your God Who brought you forth out of the land of Egypt from the house of bondage**” (vs 12-14). *You think about that!*

- Is that not where we are as a nation? *Yes!*
- Is that not where we are as a church? *Yes!*

Then know—since there’s correction going on in the Church—it’s *not too far down the road in the world! It is coming!* Think of it this way today: **God has brought you out of the world**, which is called Egypt, and **He’s brought you out of the bondage of sin**, which is held you to Satan the devil!

Verse 15: “Who led you through the great and terrible wilderness *with* fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where *there was* no water, Who brought forth water for you out of the rock of flint.”

And imagine all of them standing there were remembering all of these things that then they sought and experienced it.

Verse 16: “Who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, so that He might humble you and **that He might prove you to do you good in your latter end.**”

Remember this: ***Every trial you go through is so that God can bless you even more, IF you look to God to deliver you out of that trial!*** Here’s the key right here, and this ties in with Psa. 62 that we

just covered: *'If riches increase set not your heart on them.'*

Verse 17: "**Beware** lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of *my* hand has gotten me this wealth.'"

We could translate that into the terms, we have the longest prosperous history of an economy going of any time in the history of the United States. Have you heard that? *Yes!*

Beware saying my power and the might of my hand is got me this wealth!

Now what happens when they get all the wealth and they don't remember God? *They don't give Him anything in honor for what He's given them!*

Verse 18: "But **you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He Who gives you power to get wealth...**" That's where it all comes from. ***It all comes from God!***

- Who created everything so there could be wealth? ***God did!***
- Who made the gold and silver? ***God did!***
- Who made all the elements? ***God did!***
- Who created the trees? ***God did!***
- Who created the ground out of which all the food you eat comes? ***God did!***
- Who made all the animals in which you enjoy when we had our hamburgers this afternoon? ***God did!***

He gives you the power to get wealth!

Now remember this: Since you're not to set your heart on wealth if it increases, you look that as a blessing from God and ***look to increase in spiritual wealth*** so that you develop the [spiritual] 'gold and the silver and precious stone.' ***That is the wealth that God wants you to have and those are the true riches!***

(go to the next track)

Referring to a print out given on the heart of David. Let's take a brief review. I suppose I could've listed these in little bit different order but this is pretty much how they came as we have been going through the book of Psalms:

- 1) heartfelt repentance—continuous meek and humble
- 2) the battle is the Lord's
- 3) the law within his heart
- 4) seek the will of God and seek God
those are two distinct things
- 5) wholehearted
- 6) joyful in the Lord and rejoicing in the

Lord

- 7) always praying to God
- 8) trust in God
- 9) bold in prayer
- 10) looking toward eternal life
- 11) love God
- 12) kept the ways of the Lord
not wickedly departed from them
- 13) look to the Lord for deliverance
- 14) praise God for his creation
- 15) love God's laws
 - commandments
 - statutes
 - judgments
 - testimonies
 - precepts
- 16) ask God to lead him; eyes always on the Lord
- 17) considered all the paths the Lord mercy and truth
- 18) understood God's secret plan
the mystery of his will
- 19) understood the covenant of the Lord
- 20) waited for God
- 21) followed hard after God

Psalms 62:5: "My soul, wait in silence for God alone; for from Him comes my hope." Notice how his heart and mind was always toward God in this manner.

Verse 6: "He only is my Rock and my salvation; He is my strong tower; I shall not be moved.... [by other men] ...In God is my salvation and my glory, the Rock of my strength; my refuge is in God. **Trust in Him at all times...** [that's what we need to do in our lives] ...you people; pour out your heart before Him..." (vs 6-8).

That's where we get *continuous in prayer*. I think right now the time were living in this is the time to really pour out your hearts and prayer to God while you have time to do it, while there is not the distress upon you.

"...God is a refuge for us. Selah. Surely men of low degree are vanity, and men of high degree are a lie; when weighed in the balance, they are altogether lighter than vanity. Trust not in oppression, and do not take pride in stolen goods; if riches increase, do not set your heart upon them.... [God is the One Who gives the power for that] ...God has spoken once; twice I have heard this: **that power belongs to God**" (vs 8-11).

That's a lesson that He is going to teach. If we don't love God and appreciate what He's given, He can take it away, *because He's done it many*

times!

Verse 12: “Also to You, O LORD, belongs mercy; for You give to every man according to his work.”

As I’ve mentioned many times in the past, Psa. 63 is one of my favorite Psalms. This is one that we need to just put down that this **is a solution to being complacent**.

Psalms 63:1: “O God, You are my God, earnestly I will seek You!....

You know most people start crying out to God when it’s too late, not before any occasions arise.

“...My soul thirsts for You. My flesh longs for You...” (v 1). In other words, *this must be a continuous, ongoing thing!* Whatever we have today we have today; whatever we have is what **God has given us**. So, **we must continually be thirsting for God’s Word!**

We’ll see this is part of the Beatitudes. Everything that Christ taught we can see there is a preliminary basis of it in the Old Testament before the New Testament. This is how we need to continuously seek God:

Matthew 5:6: “Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst after righteousness...”

- righteousness comes from God
- righteousness is God’s character
- righteousness is God’s love
- righteousness is His mercy
- righteousness is His grace
- righteousness is His Word
- righteousness is His Truth

All of that is righteousness!

“...for they shall be filled” (v 6). *That’s why we have to hunger and thirst after it in a dry and thirsty land!* Let’s understand that Christ is able to fill us, because all the fullness dwells in Christ!

John 1:14: “And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us... [temporarily lived among men] ...(and we ourselves beheld His glory, *the* glory as of *the* only begotten with *the* Father), full of grace and truth.” *Since we are temporary we need to constantly be filled! Constantly renewed every day full of grace and truth!*

Verse 15: “John testified concerning Him, and proclaimed, saying, ‘This was He of Whom I said, “He Who comes after me has precedence over me because He was before me.”’.... [that actually means existed before me] ...And of His fullness...” (vs 15-16).

In other words, if we are thirsting in a dry and thirsty land after God’s way, seeking after God, panting after God as it were, how do we get filled? **We get filled with Christ!**

Verse 16: “And of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.” That means one grace after another grace. And part of the graces that we go through *are the sufferings that we have with Christ*, and the weaknesses that we have in the flesh so that *the grace of God is sufficient for us!*

Now let’s see that all the fullness of God or the Godhead dwells in Christ. That’s why we have to come to Him.

{note sermon series on the book of Colossians} I’m not going to get into any of the technical things here in Col. 2, but were going to concentrate on the *fullness of Christ*.

Colossians 2:6: “Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, be walking in Him.”

That’s how we are to live to walk it’s a way of life. ‘Rooted like the tree that is planted by rivers of living water’ (Psa. 1).

Verse 7: “Being rooted and built up in Him...”

We are constantly building and growing in character in grace through the fullness of Christ so that this becomes a whole life-long project. Now when we get to the next section, the mind of Christ, we are going to see that that is the whole epitome of the goal that we are to seek in this life. It’s a lifetime thing that we do whether we live longer whether we live not so long.

Verse 7: “Being rooted and built up... [constantly built up] ...in Him, and being confirmed in the faith, exactly as you were taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. Be on guard so that no one takes you captive through philosophy and vain deceit, according to the traditions of men, according to the elements of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him [Christ] dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily” (vs 7-9).

So, it has to come from God the Father through Christ to us. Since all the fullness is with Christ, since we are to hunger and thirst for righteousness, this is how our attitude needs to be reckoned:

Psalms 63:1: “...My soul thirsts for You. My flesh longs for You, as in a dry and thirsty land where no water is.”

I saw on the Discovery Channel a very interesting documentary on the Dead Sea and the Rift Valley where the Dead Sea is. You talk about

dry and hot and desolate! It gets to be like 116-120 degrees down there because it is the lowest spot on earth. I think it's several thousand feet below sea level. I don't remember the exact amount, but I know it's 4000 feet less than Jerusalem and I think Jerusalem is 1800 feet; so it's about 2300 feet below sea level. They said in the wintertime there that they can grow crops but they have to put in fresh water, and they have to ship in fresh water to do it.

Because it is so low and the atmosphere is so dense that within six or eight weeks in December, January and February they can have fresh melons fully ripened! So, in a dry and thirsty land if you have water what is the moral of the story? *You can grow anything!*

So, if we realize that our human nature is dry and thirsty and barren of Truth and needing the Spirit of God, the love of God and the grace of God; and if we keep seeking God from that point of view, understanding as Paul said of himself, 'In my flesh, that is in me of my flesh, dwells no good thing! Let that be filled with the fullness of Christ,' and the Word of God and the Truth of God. *That's the ultimate!*

"...as in a dry and thirsty land where no water is" (v 1). *The Holy Spirit is likened unto water!*

Didn't Christ say on the last day of the Feast: 'all you thirst come unto Me and out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water'—of which spoke of the Holy Spirit, which they had not received because Jesus was not yet glorified. Now He is glorify. Now we can have the water, **and the most important thing is God's Spirit!** Then David had this real desire, he saw the end of it; he looked to the resurrection:

Verse 2: "To see Your power and Your glory—**as I have seen You in the sanctuary.**"

That's a direct reference to the to the little sanctuary that David had for the Ark, when the Ark was in his house after they brought it back from Kirjath Jearim. David would go before that and he would play his Psalms. He had an instrument of 10 strings where he would go before God and sing and then have these all recorded and written down. That's how we get many of these Psalms. This one, I believe, was written while he was right there before the sanctuary or he had seen something of God in the sanctuary, because that's what it says here: "**...as I have seen You in the sanctuary.**"

Verse 3: "Because Your loving kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name" (vs 3-4).

For anyone who is a Laodicean, this is the cure, right here! If you're addicted to slothfulness and laziness *this is the cure.*

Verse 5: "My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness... [like unto the very substance of life] ...and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips when I remember You upon my bed and meditate on You in the night watches" (vs 5-6).

In other words, David thought on God all the time. ***That's how to have the heart of David!***

Verse 7: "Because You have been my help, therefore, in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice. **My soul follows hard after You;** Your right hand upholds me" (vs 7-8). *Looking and trusting to God and everything!*

I submit to you, that if we do this—and all of us fall short, every one of us—and keep this in mind and do it, then I think were going to see some changes in our lives and changes in things that God is doing with us. And God being able to help us really grow in character and grace and knowledge; ***to finish and complete the work that he is doing in each one of us! That's the greatest work of God!***

That's why we have to "...follow hard..." after Christ, because ***He's the only One Who can give us the fullness, Who can convert, Who can lead us.***

Verse 9: "But those who seek my life to destroy it shall go into the depths of the earth. They shall fall by the sword; they shall be a serving for jackals" (vs 9-10)—*one who can eat a lot of dead dying and leftover carcasses.* And one of the main meals is mice.

Verse 11: "But the king shall rejoice in God; everyone who swears by Him shall glory, but the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped." *We can have great confidence in that. One day they're going to be stopped!*

In all of these Psalms we are we are trying to really understand *the heart of David*, because 'from the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.' With David writing all of these Psalms, it shows his heart. That's why it says that ***David was a man after God's heart*** (Acts 13). Howbeit he sinned in the occasion of Bathsheba. Again, we're going to see that David:

- is looking to God
- is thirsting for God
- is looking toward the Kingdom of God
- is looking toward being there

Not looking at all the physical things around him!

Psalm 84:1: "How lovely are Your

tabernacles, O LORD of hosts!” *This fits right in with the theme of the Feast of Tabernacles!*

Verse 2: “My soul longs, yea, even faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.”

I tell you this is the kind of attitude that we need to have even though it is hard to maintain totally 100% all the time. But, if in our prayers to God, when we pray every day that we come to God and know

- that everything comes from Him
- that there is nothing that we can do without Him
- that God’s Spirit is going to form the heart of David and the mind of Christ in us

So that at the resurrection we can be the full-fledged sons of God! This is what God is looking to.

Verse 3: “Yea, even the sparrow has found a house, and the swallow a nest for herself where she may lay her young, even Your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; they will still be praising You. Selah. Blessed is the man whose strength is in You; Your ways are in their hearts” (vs 3-5). *Actually I would have to say the ways of God more than the ways of them!*

Verse 6: “Who passing through the valley of weeping make it a place of springs; yea, the early rain also clothes it with blessings. They go from strength to strength, every one of them appearing in Zion before God. O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob. Selah” (vs 6-8).

Let me just interject here. Sometimes when you pray maybe your attitude is such that you just wonder if God is going to hear you. Well you start out and you repent and say:

- God, forgive me!
- Hear my prayer, God!
- Answer me!
- Strengthen me!
- Grant me grace!
- Grant me favor!
- Grant me Your Spirit!

God will, right there while you’re praying!

Take out your Bible opened it up while you’re praying. Read some of the Psalms. Let those be your words until God’s Spirit gives you the words of your own mind. Let that go to God.

Verse 9: “Behold, O God, our shield, and look upon the face of Your anointed, for a day in Your courts is better than a thousand *elsewhere*. I

would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness” (vs 9-10).

That doesn’t mean that David’s is going to be a doorkeeper. But he just understood very clearly. You read the life of David and all of the intrigue and all of the politics and all the stuff that went on at the court. After his sin with Bathsheba his household was against him. Absalom rebelling against him. His other son rebelling against Solomon when he announced that Solomon was going to be king. The other son went down and said he was king and Joab had to do him in. *All that going on!* That’s why he says this.

In other words if he were doorkeeper in the house of God he would have peace. He would not have to put up with the wicked and fighting them all the time. You can say that today. Just living in this world and the breakneck speed at which we have to go. We don’t go here and go there; we run here, we run there, we do this, we have to be in a hurry and all of this sort of thing. I don’t know about you but my day every day, because of the schedule that I have, that my time is crashed almost every minute. That’s why David said it.

Verse 11: “For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD will give grace...” *There we have grace, again!*

If anyone says the grace was not in the Old Testament they don’t even know their Bibles. As I brought out in the sermon series *The Mystery of Lawlessness #3*, that Protestantism is the most lawless and the most deceptive of all the religions.

“...grace... [there it is in the Old Testament] ...and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.... [everything that comes is going to work for God] ...O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in You” (vs 11-12).

Romans 8:28: “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” *This might be a good Scripture for you to memorize! All things!* That means:

- every trial
- every difficulty
- every trauma
- every joy
- every happiness
- every blessing

All work together for good!

Always remember this. *You have perfect 20/20 vision of any situation after you have gone*

through it, *not before!* Many of us here we have gone through a lot of things together. We can look back and see that it has all worked together for good; even the difficulties. Why? ***Because if we're seeking the will of God he will bring us the solution!*** That's why they all work together for good. So, if you have a problem that comes along don't get distraught and think that God is cut you off. *He hasn't!* Don't think that you have sinned so greatly that God is rejecting you.

I have counseled no one concerning sin of the magnitude of Ahab or Manasseh. And yet, God gave them repentance. So, don't get so downhearted that you think there's no hope. But it's all going to work together for good. That's a tremendous thing. He will withhold no good thing. That doesn't mean he's is going to give you the equivalent of the replacement of the lottery.

That may end up being a curse. Do you remember the show years ago on television: The Millionaire? It was always instructive. He had a private courier go to someone and say here is a million dollars. You can do with it whatever you want. Very few did not end up *blowing it*. ***That's why the riches of Laodiceanism are deceptive!***

Here's why everything works together for good; notice how David prayed to God:

Psalm 86:1: "Bow down Your ear, O LORD, answer me, for I am poor and needy. Preserve my soul, for I am Holy... [he's called of God and has God's Spirit] ...O You my God, save Your servant who trusts in You. Be merciful to me, O LORD, for I cry unto You all day long. Rejoice the soul of Your servant, for to You, O LORD, do I lift up my soul, for You, LORD, are good and ready to forgive..." (vs 1-5).

Now this is important to understand. If you are in a situation where you are confronted with your own sins and problems and difficulties, which we all are; we need to understand that God is good and ready to forgive. ***Upon repentance!*** What happens when you repent and your heart really doesn't feel?

You say, 'O God, forgive me,' but there's that little part of your heart down here saying 'you hypocrite, you know you're just taking advantage of God.' Then you ask God:

- for a true heart
- for true repentance

He will give it! Maybe not necessarily right at that minute, but He will. One of these days you'll be going along and all of a sudden it will hit you just like a spiritual brick dropped on your head, and you will have that true deep repentance that you have sought for, ***because God is ready to forgive!***

"...and rich in mercy to all those who call upon You.... [you don't get mercy unless you call upon God] ...Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer, and attend to the voice of my supplications. **In the day of my trouble I will call upon You...**" (vs 5-7).

Too many of us in *the day of trouble* what do we try and do? *We try and work it out first and then go to God afterward!* Just the exact opposite; we need to go to God in the day of trouble.

Verse 7: "In the day of my trouble I will call upon You, for You will answer me."

- God does!
- God is there!
- God does answer!
- He does hear!

There may be some very difficult circumstances in everybody's life. The most difficult ones are the ones you can't control, but you have to ask God to control, you have to ask God to intervene. Especially if you're dealing with someone else, and you cannot convince that person of whatever it may be that you desire of them. ***But God can!*** What if you have an unconverted mate? Who can convert them? You? or God? ***God!*** What if you have trouble on the job. Who can change the mind of the boss? You? or God? Especially for if you have a hostile boss.

I remember the case of a man who had a hostile boss and then a deacon from a hostile Church of God was hired to work with him. The deacon was very political and told lies about this man. The deacon was promoted as foreman and was real buddy-buddy with the boss, and just made it absolutely terrible and horrible for this man. So, he asked me what to do.

I said, 'Just pray and ask God to work it out.' Now, that sounds so simple. I said, 'You have to keep at it. Just pray and ask God to work out.' ***And God did!*** It took a year, but what happened on this construction job they finally had an audit and there was a lot of missing stuff. One of the supervisors from the headquarters of the corporation came down to find out what was going on. He determined that this deacon and the boss were the ones who were taking the material. He talked to the man who had suffered under this for *nye* unto a whole year and he found out that he was the only one who was working and he was the only one who was loyal to the corporation and doing the work.

Well guess what happened? *The boss and the deacon were fired and this man was promoted and given back pay of raise for a year!*

Always remember Mordecai; it was until the

Always remember Mordecai; it was until the last day and who hung on the gallows? Haman the Agagite? or Mordecai for whom Haman had the gallows built? *God is able to do it!* He is able to fight our battles.

Here's what David did. This is why he was a man after God's heart because of having heart improvement, *spiritual heart improvement*. Here's how you do it.

Psalms 139:23: "Search me, O God, and know my heart..."

God knows all hearts! God is called *the heart-knowing God*. No person—young or old, male or female, important or nothing—does God not know the heart!

"...try me, and know my thoughts" (v 23). That's why we have to **bring every thought into captivity unto obedience and to Christ!**

Verse 24: "And see if any wicked way is in me; and lead me in the way everlasting."

What does it mean to be poor in spirit? *It talks about a humble and contrite heart!*

Psalms 131:1: "O LORD, my heart is not proud, nor my eyes lofty... [seeking high positions in this world, power in this world] ...nor do I involve myself in great affairs..." *In other words, he doesn't take upon him things that are not his to do!*

"...nor in things too wondrous for me.... [here's his attitude] ...Surely I have calmed and have quieted my soul as a child weaned by its mother..." (vs 1-2).

What did Jesus say about the little children? *Allow the little children to come to Me for as such is the Kingdom of God!* There it is, New Testament doctrine right in the Old Testament.

"...my soul as a child weaned..." (v 2)—*so that he could understand the words of God!* Let's tie this in with Isa. 28_[corrected], which is where we have gone many times and how to understand the Bible. Now this is where we all need to come to:

Isaiah 28:9: "Whom shall He teach knowledge? And whom shall He make to understand doctrine? *Those* who are weaned from the milk and drawn from the breasts."

In other words you're a child of God but you're no longer an infant needing milk. Then you can understand. Then you are ready;

Verse 10: "For precept *must be* upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, there a little.'

That's how you understand! For the world those who do not have God's Spirit those who do not have this attitude:

Verse 11: "For with stammering lips and foreign tongue He will speak to this people."

That by the same words you grow in grace and knowledge and understanding, they fall and **do not understand because they reject God!** Isn't that amazing? ***That's part of the mystery of the Kingdom of God!***

Psalms 111:1: "Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart in the council of the upright and in the congregation"—*wholehearted* that's the whole thing we want here. Not only was David wholehearted to God but notice this:

Psalms 57:7: "**My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed**... [he is not going to let it be wavered, he's not going to change] ...I will sing and give praise."

Now let's finish this the heart of David by going to Psalms 103. There are many other Psalms you can add to it and go through it but with we can't be so exhaustive that we cover every Psalm word for word. Again, notice his attitude:

Psalms 103:1: "Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His Holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and **forget not all His benefits; Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your desires with good things;** your youth is renewed like the eagle's" (vs 1-5).

Verse 6: "The LORD executes righteousness and judgment for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways unto Moses, His acts unto the children of Israel. The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in mercy. He will not always chasten, nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities, **for as the heavens are high above the earth, so is His mercy toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us**" (vs 6-12).

Verse 13: "As a father has compassion upon his children, so the LORD has compassion upon those who fear Him, for He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes" (vs 13-15).

That is the heart of David!

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Psalm 25:10-22
- 2) Psalm 62:1-8, 4-5, 7-11
- 3) Deuteronomy 8:1-18
- 4) Psalm 62:5-12
- 5) Psalm 63:1
- 6) Matthew 5:6
- 7) John 1:14-16
- 8) Colossians 2:6-9
- 9) Psalm 63:1-11
- 10) Psalm 84:1-12
- 11) Romans 8:28
- 12) Psalm 86:1-7
- 13) Psalm 139:23-24
- 14) Psalm 131:1-2
- 15) Isaiah 28:9-11
- 16) Psalm 111:1
- 17) Psalm 57:7
- 18) Psalm 103:1-15

Scriptures quoted, not referenced:

- John 14; 15
- Psalm 18
- Ezekiel 13
- Psalm 1
- Acts 13

Also referenced:

- Book: *The Christian Passover* by Fred R. Coulter
- Sermons: *How to Develop the Mind of Christ*
#1 & 2
- Sermon Series
 - ✓ *Epistle to the Colossians*
 - ✓ *The Mystery of Lawlessness*

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