

The Old Paths

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“The Heart”

Jarrod Jacobs

Many are confused when they read the term “heart” in the Bible. Most folks have the idea that when they read the word “heart” in the Bible, it is talking about the blood-pump in your chest! This is not the case.

The Bible has something else in mind when using the term “heart.” Let us read and study Bible passages which use the term “heart” and see what God has in mind when He talks about a man’s “heart.”

Bible Passages Related To The Heart

1. David prayed, “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me” (Ps. 51:10).
2. Solomon said, “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life” (Prov. 4:23).
3. Jeremiah wrote, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9).
4. Jesus noted the following about the heart, “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man ...” (Matt. 15:19).
5. One’s heart can be upright or wicked depending upon the person (Ps. 32:11, 64:10; Deut. 15:9; Prov. 26:23).

In these examples, half speak in a positive way about one’s heart, and half speak in a negative way about one’s heart. From these passages cited, we find one’s heart being “cleaned” by God, “kept” by men, as well as being “deceitful”, and “defiling” some men. Do such descriptions sound like the Bible is speaking of a blood-pump in somebody’s chest? Of course, not! These descriptions are speaking of one’s mind or intellect, the true seat of emotions, the heart!

Other passages worthy of note include Jeremiah 17:10, 20:12; I Samuel 16:7; and Psalm 44:21. These passages speak of God “searching” our heart. Certainly, we don’t think God is the only one who can search a blood-pump these days! Yet, with all our technology, God is the only one who knows the hearts (mind, intellect, Mk. 2:6-8; Jn. 2:25; etc.) of men. Thus, God searches the hearts of men, knowing their minds, wills, intents, emotions, etc. This is what is meant when one reads about the “heart” in the Bible.

Why Study On The Heart?

First of all, this study is needed because we need knowledge about what the Bible heart is. A study of the heart is necessary because Christ said we need to love God with all of our heart (Matt. 22:37; Mk. 12:30; Lk. 10:27)! We also need to guard, protect, or “keep” our heart from sin and wickedness (Prov. 4:23). Seeing that the Bible speaks of men’s hearts again and

again throughout Scripture, we need to make sure that our hearts are right before God!

In contrast to this, Jesus also said that “evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies” come forth from the heart (Matt. 15:19). Therefore, we need to guard our heart, and keep it pure (I Tim. 1:5; II Tim. 2:22; I Pet. 1:22). Let us make sure that our actions and speech reflect that wholesome, pure heart. If not, our hearts will be defiled, and our bodies will follow!

Conclusion

Let us be conscious of our hearts and make sure our hearts are right with God. Let our hearts be pure, holy, undefiled, and motivating us to speak in godly ways and do godly things!

Mark Your Calendars!

Jarrod Jacobs will meet Roger Holland in a religious debate on the subject of apostasy (“once saved, always saved”).

“Can a Christian lose his reward in Heaven?”

Find out May 27-28 in Millwood, KY!!

[Editor's Note: The following is from an old sermon book belonging to brother J.C. Roady. Brother Roady preached in West Virginia, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, and all across the country in meetings. He has passed away, but "he being dead, yet speaketh." Some very precious and insightful thoughts are to be found in this sermon book. For instance, the following work entitled: "The Word Of God Is Not A Dead Letter." May this help you in your Bible study.]

The Word Of God Is Not A Dead Letter

J.C. Roady

- It quickens (Ps. 119:25-50).
- It is a living word (Heb. 4:12).
- It gives life (Jn. 6:63).
- Man lives by it (Matt. 4:4).
- It makes us free (Jn. 8:32).
- It sanctifies (Jn. 17:17).
- It begets us (Jas. 1:18).
- Christians grow by it (I Pet. 2:2).
- It purifies the soul (I Pet. 1:22).
- It saves the soul (Jas. 1:21).
- It builds us up (Acts 20:32).
- It converts the soul (Ps. 19:7).
- Gives us all things (II Pet. 1:3).
- Makes wise unto salvation (II Tim. 3:15).
- It is powerful (Heb. 4:12).
- Furnishes us unto all good works (II Tim. 3:16-17).
- Gives light (Prov. 6:23).
- Gives understanding (Eph. 3:4).
- Nothing can be added to it (Ecc. 3:14; Rev. 22:18-19).

- Nothing can be taken from it (Rev. 22:19).
- It will go with us through death (Ps. 23).
- It will judge us at the last day (Rev. 20:12).

"WHAT THE EMPTY SEAT SAYS"

Jarrold Jacobs

Church buildings today have many empty seats. One church I know about sold their building to move to a smaller building. Other churches have stopped meeting altogether due to the lack of interest. What does an empty seat say?

Negligence Sits Here

Where no one sits is where negligence is! To be negligent is to be, "indifferent, careless, or off-hand" (Webster's). Some "Christians" may be negligent about their studies, and thus are ignorant about what the Bible says concerning assembling together with the saints (Heb. 10:25). Negligence needs to be driven out by preaching the pure gospel, and encouraging people to study God's word and live it (II Tim. 4:2, 2:15; Jas. 1:25).

Lack Of Love Rests Here

Our lack of love for God is

shown in our disobedience (Jn. 14:15; I Jn. 5:3). Knowing that we are commanded not to forsake "the assembling of ourselves together," what kind of love are we showing when we decide we have better things to do than worship God? Not only are we showing a lack of love for God, but we also show a lack of love for the brethren when we refuse to assemble together with them!

A Spiritual Famine Exists Here

This is not to say that one cannot study and learn God's word on his own, but there are certain things that can only be done together. Refusing to assemble with the saints shows that one is refusing the exhortation and teaching that brethren can do together (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:17). One will never know the encouragement and blessings that come through the prayers of the saints if he refuses to assemble with them (Acts 2:42; Acts 4:24-30; etc.). Seeing the empty seat shows that some lack the necessary nourishment that they need to survive spiritually (Amos 8:11-14; I Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:12-14).

Conclusion

Please do not let Satan get the upper hand! Make sure that you assemble with the saints every time the doors are open!

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www.southside-churchofchrist.com



I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!

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Wednesday Evening Bible Study _____ **7:00 pm**

Our call-in radio program is on **WBIO, FM 94.7**, Sunday afternoon from 12:30-1:00 pm. **Call: 683-9246 (WBIO)** with your Bible question.

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