

Teacher Helps

Keeping your Heart

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Prov 4:23 *Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*

The Hebrew here doubles the verb, "keep keep," which means that we must keep it this very intensely. The heart is something extremely important for our soul and our future in eternity. The text gives us the motivations coming out of our heart. **Our being (what we are) is defined by what is our heart.** We go to heaven or hell because of what we are spiritually, in our heart, we are sinners. **If one is a Christian, then he or she "is" (or seeks to be) the moral essence of Christ. He seeks the moral character of God,** and is the work of God,

and **wants to know more and more of the Word of God to be more like his Savior whom he loves intensely.** What the person "is" is defined by the moment of saving faith in his Savior, Jesus Christ.

If "he is" a child of the Devil, equally, he hates or is not tolerant of the things of God, he seeks to limit his encounter with these things of God to the least possible or avoid them entirely. He is very interested in the things of the world, the pleasures, the sins, and the rest that is not of God. Where his life is going, he discerns what essence he is, a son of God or son of the devil, and follows his spiritual "father."

1John 5:2 *By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.*

John 8:44 *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

God commands us to keep our heart, because the heart is the source of life, that is, where "what we are" comes from. The heart is a representation of everything else in our life. Everything in our life "flows" from our heart. It refers to the center of our personality and soul. From this center, "life springs" or life develops around what is in our heart, and what our heart is like spiritually. "We do" things according to what we are. What you are is defined by what your heart is.

Matt 15:18 *But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: 20 These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.*

Jesus explained that what really "contaminates man" (sin), which is our actions and attitudes, and we are not contaminated for eating one food or

You are what is in your heart.

You can be a Christian and go to heaven even if you have a perverse heart! Wrong!

A saved person seeks to be like Christ, and to be clean in his heart. Clean is to have the morality Jesus represents. Christians are like babies that desire more and more milk (Word). **1Pet 2:2** As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

***Who you obey is your father, God or Satan. ***

The practice of your life testifies who is your spiritual father.

Being a son or daughter of God means God's works will flow from your heart into your life.

Think of it this way, we are not easily contaminated by physical things, but by spiritual acts. Sin, a spiritual act, is what contaminates us.

another, or eating with unclean hands. The heart is the problem, and because of this, we act as we act, because what we are.

Rom 1:21 *Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but **became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.***

The heart is what corrupts us (makes us black with sin*), and this was because they knew about God, but they did not honor him as God. There is a lot of difference between knowing about the Bible, and knowing God personally, and having a relationship with Him, where Jesus saves you, and you honor Him as your God. They did not value God above their own will. They did not hold him, and they were condemned by God.

* *Being black with sin has nothing to do with one's skin color, but refers to purity as white, and dirty as black. Black people can be good Christians, and pure in God's eyes. Caucasians are not really white, but flesh-tone by the way.*

Ps 119:11 *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.* The heart is also the place where we "put the Word of God", and this is to prevent sin in our lives (if we heed God's Word). We put the Word of God in our hearts by memorizing it, but much more than to be able to repeat it, we study the Word of God to understand what God wants, and we give God what He wants from us.

Prov 22:5 *Thorns and snares are in the way of the froward: he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them.*

God warns us that there are dangers and punishments in the way of perversity. Keeping your soul from walking in these ways will protect you from this punishment from God on sin.

Ps 139:23 *Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

The psalmist's attitude is to lay out his life before God so that God examines and rebukes (to change his life). When there is any element of sin in our life, we should seek to remove it from our life.

Jer 17:9 *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*

Prov 28:26 *He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.*

The arrogant will not have his life blessed by God. He who follows the desires and pleasures of his heart against God's counsel is following things that have no root or part in eternity or with God.

We have to trust in God. God knows better than us. It is ridiculous to think that God (who knows everything) does not understand your life, your problems, and already knows how to

You "know" God by obeying God (pleasing God, doing what is pleasing in His sight). By sinning, and not seeking God to obey Him, your heart becomes darkened with sin. Dark or black is identified with corruption, as a stick in a fire burns and becomes black. But here, the darkness is more a clouded world view, filled with the confusion sin causes.

To glorify him as God means that you subject yourself to him and his pleasures and displeasures.

Only by focusing on the Word of God, studying it, understanding it, and then putting those principles you understand from it into actual practice in your life, are you really pleasing God.

Keeping your heart means to keep sin out of your life, mind, and soul.

We are to constantly open our lives for God to examine it and see if there is sin in it. This is not for God to identify it, He already knows all. It is an exercise of internal meditation on our life and the Word of God so that God can show us if there is sin in us.

We can safely say that the heart is full of deceit and sin. Only through constantly washing with the Word of God and internal meditation and reflection can we free ourselves of sin. This comes at SS and church in a good church that preaches the Bible.

It is not what you think about yourself. Wisdom is letting God cleanse your life with His Word, the Bible.

remedy them. We have to look for God's direction, or we will suffer serious problems in life.

Heb 12:15 *Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;*

When one accepts Jesus as their Savior, Satan gets upset with this. Then Satan works with the attitude of the person so that he "*makes bitter*", that is, he has a bad attitude about how things are turning out in his life. The author of Hebrews warns us not to fall into a bitter attitude trap towards what God does in your life.

When Satan cannot win us by causing us to fall into gross sin, he then tries to puff up our ego, "*You beat me*" and this is also sin.

God allows many difficult and hard things to come into our lives. Satan uses them to cause bitterness against God, causing us to not accept them as tests of our character, but meanness from God.

The good Christian is never bitter over what God gives him in life.
