

The Bulletin

Meeks Street Church of Christ

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“Your Bible Heart” Pt. 1

By Brian Meade



The Bible uses the word heart many times as the most important part of our body. The Greek word for heart, *kardia*, is still used to describe a heart doctor, as a cardiac specialist. But this word has strong implications about our true spiritual condition, whether good or bad.

W.E. Vine defines this word heart as, “the chief organ of physical life (“for the life of the flesh is in the blood,” Lev. 17:11), occupies the most important place in the human system. . . . the word came to stand for man’s entire mental and moral activity, both the rational and moral elements. In other words, the heart is used figuratively for the hidden springs of the personal life.” (Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words p. 297).

Joseph Thayer in his Greek lexicon says this about the Bible heart as, “the centre and seat of spiritual life, the soul or mind, as it is the fountain and seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, endeavors....” (Thayer Greek-English Lexicon p. 325)

So what does the Bible say about our heart, and why does it matter so much? First of all, when the Bible speaks of your heart, it’s talking about more than just the blood pump of your body. It has to do with the mind, emotions, plans, intentions, motives, desires, and purposes that make up who you are.

It matters because your heart will determine what kind of person you are and what actions you will be about doing. That’s why the Bible says, “Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.” (Proverbs 4:23).

When we talk of your heart in Biblical terms, we cannot stress enough about the diligent and urgent need to protect your heart from things that would damage or destroy it. You can see the obvious parallel in only doing what is good for your physical heart to protect it, and also for your spiritual heart.

But even more than that, Solomon is instructing us to guard or keep our heart because it is source of all our decisions, plans, purposes, and desires we have in life! Let’s look at what functions your heart has in this sense.

I. The Heart Thinks And Speaks.

The Bible presents to us the part of man that thinks and speaks from his heart. This is the reasoning and rational side of man that is capable of good or bad thoughts. Jesus would say in Matthew 12:34, “...*For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.*” Men and women will often say what is on their heart, and we have this phrase, “I’m speaking from the heart.”

In Matthew 9:4, the Bible tells us, “*But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts?”* He knew the thoughts of men and could know for certain what they were thinking (Matthew 12:25; John 2:25). Also, the evil servant also speaks from his heart in a bad way in Luke 12:45, “*But if that servant says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk,*”

It sad when it is about wickedness that many will speak about the love and practice of sin, but what about speaking from the heart for good things? When we obey from the heart (Romans 6:17) when we are coming to God by making that great confession of faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9-10; 1 Timothy 6:12-13). No sweeter words could ever be spoken than, *"I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."* (Acts 37). For it to be pleasing to God, we must speak these words from the heart.

II. The Heart Understands And Perceives.

When God told Solomon that He would grant him whatever he asked for (1 Kings 3:5), what was it that Solomon asked God for? *"Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"* (1 Kings 3:9). Solomon asked for an understanding heart!

In Matthew 13:3-9, Jesus gave to His listeners the parable of the sower, and then there is the disciples' conversation with Jesus about why Jesus speaks in parables (Matthew 13:10-13). In Matthew 13:14-15, Jesus speaks to those who would not understand and why, *"And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn. So that I should heal them.'"* (Emphasis on the heart here).

Jesus is pointing out that they should have understood in their hearts, but they did not because of their poor heart condition! One thing is certain, one *must not allow prejudice, pride, envy, or a defense of false traditions to hinder us from understanding the truth. But it is from the heart we understand.*

III. The Heart Keeps Our Memories—Treasures.

In Deuteronomy 11:18, God wanted His people to remember His word in their hearts, *"Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes."*

This was a memory device that was used for the purpose of constantly reminding them of their commitment to God's word. It is not unlike what we do today with Scripture on wall plaques of today.

David said in Psalm 119:11 (NKJB), *"Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You."* Other translations of the Bible translate this verse a little differently: 1. *"Your word I have treasured in my heart,"* (NASB;NRSV). 2. *"I have stored up your word in my heart,"* (ESV); 3. *"I have laid up thy word in my heart,"* (RSV; ASV). But, however the translations say it, the bottom line is: We need the word of God in our heart to be protected from temptation (Psalm 37:31; Matt. 4:1-10).

The Bible tells that Mary, the mother of Jesus, *"treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart."* (Luke 2:19). Why did she do that concerning her son, Jesus? She wanted to remember all the events and things surrounding the Son of God. This statement is repeated in Luke 2:51, *"And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart."* This shows us what was important to Mary, what was in her heart as a mother.

IV. The Heart Devises And Conceives.

In Proverbs 6:16-19, God declares the things He hates. Note in verse 18, He says that He hates, *"A heart that devises wicked plans..."*. This teaches us that it in the heart where wicked plans begin and are conceived.

In 1 Kings 12, we are given the motivation for Jeroboam to change the worship of God's established order to something completely fabricated by Jeroboam, himself (1 Kings 12:26-32).

In verse 33, we read, *"So he made offerings on the altar which he had made at Bethel on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, in the month which he had devised in his own heart. And he ordained a feast for the children of Israel, and offered sacrifices on the altar and burned incense."*

Jeroboam made up or devised in his heart a different way to worship God that was false and sinful. Many have followed in Jeroboam's footsteps to offer "new ways" to worship even to this day! All false religion is devised in the hearts of men to change the pattern of God's will for us (1 Timothy 4:1-3; Gal.1:6-9).

In Acts 5:1-10, when Ananias and Sapphira lied about the amount that they had given to the apostles, Luke tells us the words of Peter, *"....Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."* (vs. 4).

Why did Peter say that? Because Jesus said it is that way. *"For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness."* (Mark 7:21-22).

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Sam Johnson, J F Dancer, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Nannette Chancellor, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Wesley Trimble,, Sandra Oliver, and Robert Howard (Doug and Pat's son in law).

Danny Cottrell, Colby Harris who was in a car wreck last Thursday.
The Ky. residents and brethren affected by the flash flooding in Eastern Ky. (8 died). Anna, JayLynn, and John Curtis Hearn have had the Covid.
LuAnne Parrish was in the hospital last week, continued prayers.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Paul Busby
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "God's Transforming Power"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Fred Johnson
Starting Page & Question: Ephesians (Chris Reeves)
Page #37, Question #11

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Paul Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Jerry Kennemur
Jeremiah 6:16-17
Song Leader: Lee busby
Lord's Supper: Doug George
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: "Reformation Versus Restoration" Pt. 1
Closing Prayer: Russell Briggs

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

August 3rd:

Auditorium Bible Class: Russell Briggs
Workbook: Jeremiah & Lamentations
(John Humphries)
Starting Page & Question: Page #49, Question #1
Invitation: Brian Meade
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Closing Prayer: Paul Johnson

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“God’s Transforming Power”

Lesson Text: **Romans 12:1-2.**

I. God Has Formed.

- God Formed All Things In The Beginning- **Genesis 1:1-2.**
- God Formed Man- **Genesis 1:26-27– Genesis 2:7-9.**
- **Genesis 2:19.**
- **Genesis 1:31.**

Notes: _____.

II. Sin Has Deformed.

- **Genesis 3:1-10.**
- Consequences: Guilt, Shame, Death, And Condemnation:
- **Romans 5:12; vs. 18; Romans 6:21.**
- Why David Lamented- **Psalms 51:1-5; 1 John 5:19.**
- Why Paul Said.... **Romans 7:24; 2 Peter 1:4.**

Notes: _____.

III. False Teaching Has Misinformed.

- We hear so much about Misinformation and “Fake News.” (Fake Good news?).
- **Galatians 1:6-9.**
- Today, There Is So Much Misinformation About:
 1. Salvation. *“Faith Alone Saves” “Just Say The Sinner’s Prayer.”*
 2. The Church. *“Join The Church Of Your Choice” “Denominationalism Is Good.”*
 3. Worship. *“Worship Is Not Prescribed” Worship Your Way!” “There Is No Pattern.”*

Notes: _____.

IV. Only In Jesus Christ Can We Be Transformed!

- **Romans 7:24-25; 1 John 5:19-20.**
- **2 Corinthians 5:17.**
- How? By God Through His Word.
 - **Luke 8:11; 1 Peter 1:23.**
 - By The Gospel Message- **Romans 1:16; Colossians 1:5-6.**
 - Hear, Believe, Repent, And Baptism— **Romans 6:17-18.**
 - Christians Transformed- **Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 3:18.**

Notes: _____.

“Reformation Versus Restoration” Pt. 1

Lesson Text: Jeremiah 6:16-17.

- Definition of Reformation: Make changes in (something, typically a social, political, or economic institution or practice) in order to improve it.
- Definition of Restoration: To bring back to or put back into a former or original state.
- Examples:
 1. Reform in Legislation, In School Curriculum, Reform in Insurance Policies...
 2. Restoration Of An Original Painting, Car, House, Or Antique....
- Which Of The Two Did Jeremiah Call Israel To: Reformation Or Restoration? (**Vs. 16**).

I. Why The Need To Restore Israel’s Ways?

- Because They Had Left God’s Ways- **Jeremiah 6:13-15**. Moral/Spiritual Apostasy.
- The People Of Israel Pledged In Joshua’s Day— **Joshua 24:15-22**. What Happened?
- But Israel Drifted Away- **Jeremiah 18:15; 8:5**.
- How Apostasy Happens In Cycles & Seasons- **Book of Judges**.
- **Isaiah 55:8-9** God’s People Were So Far Away From God.

II. How Israel Was Restored.

- **2 Chronicles 34-35**. Josiah Fully Restores God’s Ways.
 - **34:1-7** He Takes The Evil Things Away....
 - **34:8-13** He Begins To Repair The Temple...
 - **34:14-17** They Find The Book Of The Law...
 - **34:18-21** The King’s Reaction To Hearing The Book....
 - **34:22-28** God’s Words Of Judgment For Disobedience....
 - **34:29-33** Josiah’s Commitment To God’s Covenant....
 - **35:1-15** Everything Is Done By The Book....
- **35:16-19**. They Restored The Passover Of God.

III. Applications For Us Today.

- It Takes God’s Word For Us To Restore God’s Ways- **2 Chronicles 34:21**.
- Any Additions Or Subtractions Would Not Be Restoration- **Deut. 4:2**.
- As Long As We Have God’s Word— We Can Restore God’s Ways.
 - Illustration: The Game Of Baseball; Corrupted—Then Restored!