

THE CHANGE OF HEART

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Examples:

1. Pharaoh's heart changed from good to evil (Ex. 14:5).
2. Lydia's heart changed to compliance with the Lord's will (Acts 16:14).

B. Where does the Lord look to determine the kind of person we truly are (Jer. 17:9,10)?

C. The heart then, is the source of all conduct.

1. (Prov. 4:83) Keep thy heart pure...
2. (Prov. 23:7) ...thinks in his heart...
3. (Mt. 12:34) ...out of the abundance of the heart...

II. DISCUSSION

A. What is the Heart?

1. We think with our heart (Prov. 23:7)
2. The Hebrew writer uses the words heart and mind interchangeably in his quotations of Jer. 31:33. (Heb. 8:10; 10:16).
3. Therefore we conclude the heart and the mind are the same.

B. The Heart is the Source of Good and Evil.

1. The examples of Pharaoh and Lydia.
2. What about "Heart-Felt Religion?"
 - a. Saul had it (Acts 26:9,10).
 - b. so does every person who has religion
 - c. but is this religion from a good heart or an evil heart?

C. We Are Interested in Changing an Evil Heart to a Good Heart, That is, Bring the Unbelieving Heart to Christ. To understand the process of change, we must first understand the make-up or components of the heart.

1. The heart or mind can be divided into three areas: the intellect, the emotions, and the will.
 - a. the intellect - the ability to reason or understand - the power of thought.
 - b. the emotions - our feelings, such as: love, hate anger, fear, etc.
 - c. the will - the power of making a choice or decision, including the power to control one's actions.

2. Each aspect or area of the heart can be seen as we go through the process of the change of heart.

the Eunuch (Acts 8)

a. INTELLECT

(1) THINKS - (Prov. 23:7) (28)

(2) UNDERSTANDS - (Mt. 13:10-13) (30-35)

(3) BELIEVES - (Rom. 10:10) (37)

b. EMOTIONS

(1) DESIRES - (Rom. 10:1) (37)

(2) LOVES - (Mt. 22:37) (37)

(3) TRUSTS - (Prov. 3:5) (37)

c. WILL

(1) PURPOSES - (2 Cor. 9:7) (36)

(2) DETERMINES - (1 Cor. 7:37) (36)

(3) OBEYS - (Rom. 6:17) (38)

3. Apply to the Ethiopian Eunuch Acts 8:26-38

4. Apply to a person today.

III. CONCLUSION

A. Obedient Faith is Necessary (James 2:17-26).

B. We Will Answer For the Deeds of Our Heart (2 Cor. 5:10).

[Outline adapted from the Sermons of R.C. White, 1945]

Leesburg - 6/12/82; 7/22/90