Keeping the Heart

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

Proverbs 4:23

Keeping the Heart

Proverbs 4:23 may be Solomon's single best proverb.

Our original commentary, unhappily, was quite poor.

• The revision sent to the world 6/4/2013 was better.

This study is the outgrowth of seeking to improve it.

A complete study of the heart would take 40+ hours.

Keeping the Heart (2)

The greatest thing you can do to please God is this!

The greatest thing you can do for yourself is this!

The greatest love for any person is by this matter!

I have preached extensive sermons on this subject.

As your pastor, there is nothing more important.

The Issues of Life

Fully everything you think, say, and do comes from it!

Speech, moods, marriage, and time management!

- Relationships, health, spending, sex, and worship!
- Pleasing God and men totally depends on your heart.

Prosperity, reputation, and success all depend on it.

The Issues of Life (2)

• You will not be forgiven (Ps 34:18; 51:17; Is 55:15; 66:2).

• You will be miserable (Pr 15:13,15; 17:22; 12:25; 18:14).

Are a serial rapist and killer (Mat 5:21-30; 15:19; 18:35).

God judges accordingly (II Ch 16:9; Pr 14:14; Eze 14:1-11).

• Your worship stinks (Matt 15:8; Is 29:13; Ezek 33:30-33).

The Issues of Life (3)

• You will lose professionally (Ep 6:5-9; I Sa 16:7; Dan 1:8).

Your prayers will go nowhere (Ps 66:18; Job 27:8-9).

• Even your health is affected (Pr 3:8; 14:30; 17:22).

You may blow off God! (Heb 3:10-14; Jer 2:13; 7:22-24).

Consider "A Pure Heart" and "The Heart of David."

What Is the Heart?

- For this study, we assume short and simple terms.
- It is the affections, ambitions, and fears inside you.

It directs your mind more than your mind directs it.

- But keeping your heart is a mental choice to change.
- Alter your heart by choice and inputs, by God's help.

You Must Keep It

• If you follow your heart, it will go to sin (Jer 17:9).

You must keep it diligently – meaning constant effort!

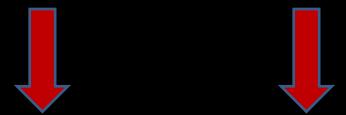
You must root out idols and redirect it toward God.

You must direct and arouse affections toward God.

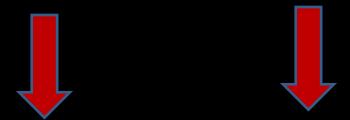
It defaults to folly and sin, but it can be made better!

How Does a Man Get Promoted?

• "He that loveth pureness of heart" (Pr 22:11).



"For the grace of his lips" (Pr 22:11).



• "The king shall be his friend" (Pr 22:11).

How did Amnon commit Incest?

He looked at his sister Tamar with lustful thoughts.

He let thoughts of sex with her entertain his mind.

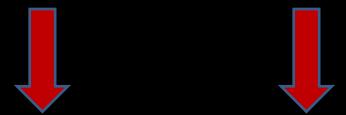
He allowed these thoughts to continue to sickness.

He let wicked friends give him ideas how to do it.

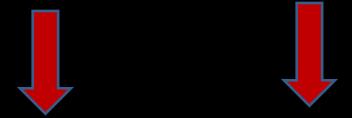
He did it ... and immediately learned sin is hateful!

How Does a Man Commit Sin?

• "But every man is tempted" (Jas 1:14).



"He is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed."



"When lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin."

How did Solomon worship Molech?

He thought in his heart that he was quite a stud.

He thought in his heart he could afford more wives.

He thought in his heart God loved polygamous David.

He thought God approved of Pharaoh's daughter.

He broke many commands regarding pagan wives.

Why do women dress immodestly?

She thinks in the heart to attract men like 8th graders.

She wishes she could have a more exciting marriage.

She hangs around people and places stressing looks.

She shops at places that are worldly cool and popular.

Her conscience is dead as she dresses whorishly.

How Can Communion Kill?

- Living carnally six days a week will kill your heart.
- With unconfessed sins, you will just do the motions.

With unconfessed sins, you trample the Son of God.

With unconfessed sins, you do not discern His body.

He justly and righteously puts such hearts to death.

Look at a Virtuous Woman's Heart

"God made me to be a helper and lover to one man."

"God gave me the man He chose and I also chose."

- "God, help me today to be special for my man."
- "Let my desires be His desires; help me adore him."

"I will treat him today as if he were Jesus Christ."

Destroy Yourself with Misery

Allow a bitter, critical, hateful spirit to exist in heart.

It will raise many negative thoughts, hurting only you.

It will remember evil deeds of others, forgetting good.

It will give you a murderous perspective on others.

It will come out in hateful speech and foolish deeds.

You Must Get to One Heart

A double heart is a terrible thing (I Chr 12:33; Ps 12:2).

• You must make your heart/mind single (Jas 1:8; 4:8).

Two hearts are truly impossible (Mat 6:24; 13:22; 19:22).

The more single minded you are, the greater to God!

You press after His things ... while killing your things.

How do I keep my Heart?

• Direct affections where they belong (Co 3:2; Ps 119:112).

• The words of God will direct you (Job 22:21-22; Pr 3:5-6).

Obedience will strengthen the heart (I Pe 1:22; Co 3:15).

• Beg God for it (Ps 51:10; 86:11; 119:36; 141:4; I Kg 8:57-58).

Commune with your own heart (Ps 4:4; 63:6; 77:6).

How do I keep my Heart? (2)

Sober confession, repentance, and repudiation of sins.

Try something new ... self-examination ... seriously!

Get rid of all bitterness and envy of every sort, now!

What does fasting/sackcloth tend to show? Try it!

Use the links at end of this study for godly homework!

For Further Study

- 1. A Pure Heart ... www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/a-pure-heart.pdf
- 2. Heart of David ... www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/heart-of-david.pdf
- 2. Is Your Heart Perfect? ... www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/is-your-heart-perfect.pdf
- 3. Heart Examination (Quiz) ... www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/heart-examination.pdf
- 4. Daniel at School ... www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/daniel-at-school.pdf
- 5. King of Hearts ... www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/king-of-hearts.pdf.

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