

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.letgodbetru.com/pdf/a-pure-heart.pdf
2. **Heart of David** ... www.letgodbetru.com/pdf/heart-of-david.pdf
2. Is Your Heart Perfect? ... www.letgodbetru.com/pdf/is-your-heart-perfect.pdf
3. Heart Examination (Quiz) ... www.letgodbetru.com/pdf/heart-examination.pdf
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