

HEBREWS AND THE HEART

Winfred Clark

At least seven times in the Hebrew letter the writer has occasion to make some comment concerning the heart. In the third chapter he makes mention of the heart three times (Heb. 3:7-12). Thus one can see that the heart of the matter is the matter of the heart

1. THERE IS THE EFFECT UPON THE HEART (Heb. 3:7-8). His appeal is that they hear his voice and not harden the heart. They could, however, allow the message they heard to simply harden their hearts. They could become insensitive to the appeals of the gospel. They would hear but they would not hear.

It would do us well to stop and examine our most recent reaction to lessons we have heard. Were they retained or rejected? What effect did they have on our souls?

2. THERE IS THE ERRING HEART (Heb. 3:10). "They do err in their heart." This is an inspired description of faulty thinking and reasoning. Isn't this where Simon went wrong when he tried to buy the power to impart the Holy Spirit? Peter told him to repent of the thought of his heart that was in error (Acts 8:21-23).

3. THERE IS THE EVIL HEART (Hebrews 3:13). The writer warns of the dangers of this heart and appeals to them to avoid such a heart. He well knew the nature and danger of unbelief and what effect such a heart would surely have upon these people.

Such a heart would turn down the evidence that was presented. In so doing, one would have to close his mind to the gospel. This is not a good and honest heart.

4. THERE IS THE FIRMLY ESTABLISHED HEART (Heb. 13:9). "Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace." Such a heart has its hope clearly fixed. It is stable and steadfast because of firmly held convictions from which one does not dare to waver.

The writer knew the perils and pressures they faced (and which we also face today). He also knew the need then and now of an established heart.

Yes, the Hebrew letter focuses upon the heart with the hope that all may have hearts that are right in the sight of God. That, my bother and sister, is what counts.

- *The Beacon*, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL -

"... a wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment." Ecclesiastes 8:5

News & Notes

CONGRATULATIONS: To Keith & Elaine McClung on the birth (July 3rd) of a grandson, William Keith to Matt & Suzanne Rice in Fayetteville, NC.

NEW CONVERT CLASS: Each Sunday a.m. Bible Class in Room 406. This class is for those who were baptized in the last three years.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CAMP: Camp starts tomorrow, July 9th through July 14th at Tomlinson Run State Park. Sign-up sheet on the desk in the foyer for anyone who will help.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Canceled for this Tuesday, July 10th. Resumes Tuesday, July 17th at 9:00 a.m.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY: Canceled for this Thursday, July, 12th. Resumes Thursday, July 19th, 11:00 a.m. at the Brown's residence.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, July 14th, 8:30 a.m. at the Columbiana, OH Church of Christ. Sign-up sheet on the desk.

MEMBER VISITS: Our Elders and Minister are making visits to get to know the members better. Schedule a visit here at the building or in your home by signing the sheet on the desk, or arrange an appointment by talking to Rico. Otherwise, expect an impromptu visit.

PANTRY: Noodles & tuna fish.

SICK & SHUT-IN: AT HOME: Charlie Delong, Bill & Carol Stillwell, Russell Martin, Blondenia Orr, Doris Dunham, Alex Harless. **FOX NURSING HOME:** Mary Jane Bowers (Room 19). **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller. **AUBURN NURSING HOME, SALEM, OH:** Jim Mick. **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl. **IN CALIFORNIA:** Cindy Moore (Pat Allison's cousin).

Three Kinds Of Givers

There are three kinds of givers: the flint, the sponge, and the honeycomb. Which kind are you?

To get anything from the flint, you must hammer it. Yet, all you get are chips and sparks. The flint gives nothing away if it can help it, and even then only with a great display.

To get anything from the sponge, you must squeeze it. It readily yields to pressure and the more it is pressed, the more it gives. Still, one has to squeeze it.

To get anything from the honeycomb, however, one must only take what freely flows from it. It gives its sweetness generously, dripping on all without badgering. The honeycomb is a renewable resource. Unlike the flint or the sponge, the honeycomb is connected to life. It is the product of the ongoing work and creative energy of bees. If you share like a honeycomb giver, your life will be continually replenished and grow as you give.



When we share we freely give and we acknowledge that all we have is on loan and others have as much right to the things of God's creation as we do.

- Keith Wagner, *But, I Need It!* (Encourager, Southside Church of Christ, Killeen, TX) -