

HEART TROUBLE

By: Dr. Hal Webb, Evangelist

“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.” Proverbs 4:23

There are many verses in the Bible concerning the heart. It is an amazing part of the creative hand of God. However the verses of the Bible have far more meaning than the blood pumping thing we might consider. The Bible refers to it as the center of affection, controller of emotion and the means of right and wrong decisions. Who we are and how we live depends on a healthy spiritual heart. There are a number of ways in which we can suffer heart trouble. The Bible warns **It Can Be Not Right:** In Psa. 78:37 it says *“their heart was not right with Him.”* This is very true in the heart of every sinner. Since the day of Adam and Eve man has been born with heart disease in that all are born sinners and not right with God. Only by believing in Jesus Christ can ones heart be cleansed and made right with God. The Bible refers to the New Birth in John 3:3. We all have heard, *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life”* John 3:16. **Your Heart Can Be Deceitful:** Jer. 17:9 warns *“the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. who can know it.”* How very true this is. We are all capable of still doing great wrong in the flesh if we are not cautious. Sometimes our feelings are so proud and earthly we miss the right decision we ought to have made. Our mind can force a decision our heart does not want to make. We must think things through carefully and listen to our obedient heart. What seems right humanly could be very wrong, so stop and think it through. **Our Hearts Can Become Cold:** In Rev. 2:4 God warns *“thou hast left thy first love.”* We can lose our close

walk with God in careless living. Remember how thrilled you were right after your salvation? You were filled with joy and excited about the future as you began as a child walking with God. But now with prayers unsaid and the Bible neglected and church services skipped you have become mechanical and unhappy. You know what you ought to do but it seems so hard and you are far from God with cold conformity but little love. The luster and thrill is gone from your heart and sinful words or actions have wrecked the warmth of your heart. Whenever we allow any sin to recapture our victory, it results in our heart being **Hardened By Sin:** We are told in Heb. 3:13 *“Exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”* Every word and deed that that is wrong will harden us if repeated. We so often make excuse for our failures at first but they soon shape themselves into chains of habit if we continue. Things we do are not the best, but we make excuse, measure ourselves with others and gradually the sin does not bother us. Jello hardens and water in the ice tray does likewise and continuation of any sin will put callouses on your heart. You were convicted but now you accept it as not so bad. Let me further say, **Hardness Kills Prosperity:** In Job 9: 4 speaking of God it says *“He is wise in heart and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against Him and hath prospered.”* There is great prosperity and happiness and genuine peace when you walk in obedience to the wishes of God. I have observed that many sinners seem to be happier than some children of God. When you know you should and you don't, you will lose much of God's blessings. He had great plans for you but you sit on the side of the road looking the wrong way. Indeed He has promised much but with a hardened heart you will not know His blessings nor bask in His provisions. How sad to cause our own unhappiness and miss the prosperity God

planned for us. Pause and remember Jer. 17:10 *“I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.”* Remember the text says To Keep It. Let’s consider some ways to do that. We are told first to **Keep It Pure:** A good verse for that is Psm. 24:4 *“He that hath clean hands and a pure heart.”* We live in a filthy world. The standards of Godly living are ridiculed and broken constantly. Almost all means of entertainment have moved out of the sewer for the eyes of men. You will not accidentally have a pure heart but will have to daily refuse the evil and follow the ways of good. It is your job to keep your heart right with God. In John 14:1 we read *“Let not your heart be troubled.”* **Allow It Not To Be Troubled:** There is indeed trouble on every side and our news media seems to be dedicated to warning how bad things are and what is coming next, even worse. Perhaps you have family problems or difficulty at work. It can be difficult to feed the family or fill up the gas tank. Satan is constantly trying to discourage the child of God. But remember, God is still on the throne. Don’t fret but **Keep It Trusting:** In Prov. 3:5 we are told to *“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding.”* Remember the song “Every promise in the book is mine; every chapter, every verse, and every line.” Don’t grovel in pity and discouragement but trust the one who promised His Word would never fail. God is dependable and will never let you down. In your darkest fretful moments learn to lean on Him. Further more, we are to **Be Tenderhearted:** *“Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”* This should be one of our clearest distinctions. Your family should be bathed in your kindness and your neighborhood sense your attitude of caring for others. Instead of becoming bitter or grouchy, work on your smile and an attitude

that says to all that you care for them. Cultivate friends and stand by them in their times of difficulty. Look around you at church, take someone's hand and express your interest and kindness toward them. Help them bare the load that is currently upon them. Always remember, to have friends you must be friendly. I see three more things about our hearts spoken of in the scriptures. We need to **Keep A Serving Heart:** Deut. 11:13 *“Serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.”* I am so very thankful for my mother that never let us stay out of Sunday School or church. The Webbs had a bench and we were in it faithfully. Is that typical of your family? Is prayer meeting also a priority at your house. Repeated failure in faithful attendance will hurt you and your whole family in your walk with God. Your neighbors see how you spend Sundays and judge your sensitivity to the things of God. We are also told to **Keep Our Heart Believing:** Rom. 10:10 *“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness.”* Every precious verse that brought us to Christ had to be believed for it to become a reality with us. Having trusted Christ we rest upon these verses knowing God does not lie. Not one of His promises have failed nor ever will. Praise God!

Remember Your heart can be:

Deceitful.	Hardened by sin.
Not Right.	Destructive to prosperity.
Cold.	

We are commanded to keep our hearts:

Pure.	Praising.
Trusting.	Tenderhearted.
Untroubled.	Serving.
Fixed.	Believing

**Remember “I the Lord search the heart.”
Jer. 17:10.**