

The Bible Heart

Acts 8:21

Introduction:

- A. We hear a lot about heart-felt religion.
 - 1. Hold hand over chest and speak of what they feel.
 - 2. No reasoning from the scriptures can overcome that feeling.
- B. We need to understand the Bible heart and its place in our religion.
 - 1. It is the source of sinful actions (Matt. 15:19).
 - 2. It is involved in obedience to God (Rom. 6:17).
 - 3. It is involved in service to God (2 Cor. 9:7; Eph. 5:19).
- C. We will notice the nature of the heart and its role in salvation.

Discussion:

I. The Nature of the Heart.

- A. It includes the *intellect*.
 - 1. It thinks – “As he thinketh in his heart, so is he” (Prov. 23:7)
 - 2. It reasons – “Why reason ye these things in your hearts” (Mk. 2:8)
 - 3. It understands – “...understand with their heart..” (Matt 13:15)
 - 4. It believes – “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness.” (Rom. 10:10).
- B. It includes the *emotions*.
 - 1. It despises – “She despised him in her heart” (2 Sam. 6:16).
 - 2. It desires – “My hearts desire...” (Rom. 10:1)
 - 3. It loves – “Thou shalt love the lord thy god with all thine heart” (Matt. 22:37).
 - 4. It trusts – “Trust in the lord with all thine heart..” (Prov. 3:5).
- C. It includes the *will*.
 - 1. It decrees or determines – “Hath decreed in his heart to keep his virgin..” (1 Cor. 7:37).
 - 2. It intends – “...discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Heb. 4:12)
 - 3. It purposes – “As a man purposes in his heart...” (2 Cor. 9:7).
 - 4. It obeys – “.. ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine. (Rom. 6:17).
- D. It includes the *conscience* (1 John 3:20, 21)

II. The Role of the Heart in Salvation.

- A. The heart is purified in the new birth (1 Pet. 1:22-23)
- B. The *intellect* is changed by evidence.
 - 1. Belief is based on evidence (Rom. 10:17; John 20:31).
 - 2. Thomas believed after examining evidence (John 20:24-29).
- C. The *emotions* are changed by believing the evidences.
 - 1. What one learns about Jesus produces love for him.
 - 2. What one learns of God produces trust.
- D. The *will* is changed by motives produced by faith.
 - 1. Saul willed to kill Christians, but faith changed that will (Acts 22:16).
 - 2. Disobedient hearts changed by faith in:
 - a. The goodness of God (Rom. 2:4).
 - b. Faith in the promised rewards of obedience (Heb. 5:9).
 - c. Faith in the threatened rewards for disobedience (Rev. 20:15)
- E. The *conscience* is changed by faith in having done right.
 - 1. One understands God’s will, believes and obeys it (1 Pet. 3:21)
 - 2. Conscience does not condemn until one believes he has done wrong. (cf. Acts 23:1)

Conclusion:

- A. Salvation begins with the intellect, then involves other parts of the heart.
- B. “Heart-felt religion” and emotionalism – Starts with emotions and blinds intellect.