

KEEP THY HEART WITH ALL DILIGENCE PROVERBS 4

Text: Proverbs 4:23

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²³ Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

Introduction:

I've people say when making a decisions that they just followed their heart. I also heard someone the other day say, "Well I know I'm going to Heaven because I have a good heart.

The Bible has a lot to say about the heart. The Bible makes mention to the heart 841 times.

I believe that we see in our text the importance of keeping or guarding our hearts. Why is it so important? Because out of the heart comes the issues of life. Where is your heart? You see the things that we treasure is where we will find our heart

Matthew 6:21

²¹ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Luke 12:34

³⁴ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

One thing is for certain, the Lord knows and sees where our hearts are.

Jeremiah 17:10

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.

Genesis 6:5

⁵ And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

Notice

1. THE HEART IS DESPERATE

Jeremiah 17:9

⁹ The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

A. The heart is wicked

B. The heart will wonder

Illustration: Come Thou Fount

O to grace how great a debtor, Daily I'm constrained to be!

Let Thy goodness like a fetter, Bind my wonderin heart to Thee

Prone to wonder Lord I feel it, Prone to leave the God I
love;

Heres my heart O take and seal it, Seal it for thy courts
above.

2. THE HEART DECEIVES

Jeremiah 17:9

⁹The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked:
who can know it?

A. Sin

James 1:14-15

¹⁴But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own
lust, and enticed. ¹⁵Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth
forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

B. Sowing

Galatians 6:7-8

⁷Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man
soweth, that shall he also reap. ⁸For he that soweth to his flesh
shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit
shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

C. Shortness of time

Matthew 24:44

⁴⁴Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not
the Son of man cometh.

Luke 12:40

⁴⁰ Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

1. To the lost today is the day of Salvation
2. To the Christian he fields are white already to harvest

3. THE HEART DETERMINES

A. Disposition is Determined (Sweetness)

Proverbs 17:22

²² A merry heart doeth good *like* a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

Proverbs 15:13

¹³ A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

B. Direction is Determined (Separation)

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

¹⁴ Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? ¹⁶ And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹⁷ Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you, ¹⁸ And will be a Father unto

you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

2 Corinthians 7:1

¹ Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Luke 21:34

³⁴ And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and *so* that day come upon you unawares.

C. Dedication is Determined (Service)

Romans 10:1

¹ Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

Proverbs 23:7

⁷ For as he thinketh in his heart, so *is* he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart *is* not with thee.

1 Corinthians 3:9-14

⁹ For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, *ye are* God's building. ¹⁰ According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. ¹¹ For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; ¹³ Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. ¹⁴ If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

D. Devotion is Determined (Steadfastness)

Matthew 6:19-34

¹⁹ Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: ²¹ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. ²² The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. ²³ But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great *is* that darkness! ²⁴ No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. ²⁵ Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? ²⁶ Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? ²⁷ Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? ²⁸ And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: ²⁹ And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, *shall he* not much more *clothe* you, O ye of little faith? ³¹ Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? ³² (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. ³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. ³⁴ Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil thereof.

F. Destiny (Salvation)

Romans 10:9-10

⁹That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Close:

In Keeping Our Heart We Must:

- Be Careful of the Condition of Our Heart

Psalms 51:10

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

The condition of the heart is deceitful.

Jeremiah 17:9

⁹The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

- Be Certain of the Custodian of Our Heart

We experience peace with God at salvation.

We receive the peace of God as we pray and make our request known unto Him.

Philippians 4:6-7

⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- Be Cautious of the Contents of Our Heart

Proverbs 23:7

⁷ For as he thinketh in his heart, so *is* he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart *is* not with thee.

Philippians 4:8

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.

Psalms 119:11

¹¹ Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Joshua 1:8

⁸ This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

- Be Committed to Communing with Our Heart

Psalms 4:4

⁴ Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.

Psalms 77:6

⁶ I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search.

Psalms 63:6

⁶ When I remember thee upon my bed, *and* meditate on thee in the *night* watches.