

## **MATTERS OF THE HEART** **(Proverbs 23:7)**

The term 'heart' within bible scripture generally speaks of the inner person and spiritual center of the person. In this study we will focus our attention on the spiritual life and need of protecting our 'heart'.

### **Importance Of The Heart**

**Hebrews 4:12** God has given us His word in order for the believer to search out their own motives and be able to tell if we are on the right path with God or on the wrong path with self.

**Proverbs 4:23** God warns us that the consequences, the events of life, the condition of we find ourselves in, and the results of our decisions all come from within our heart.

**Matthew 15:18-20** Jesus took the time to warn us that the things that defile us (make unclean, tarnish) all come from the inner man, our heart.

### **Guarding Our heart**

**Jeremiah 17:9** No other verse in the bible talks of the “old man” or “sin nature” more than this verse. If not fully guarded by the Spirit of God our heart is on a collision course of deceit and sin.

**Proverbs 3:5** God knows that when we trust ourselves, our experience, we are doomed to fail. Our heart needs to be under the guardianship of the One who knows what is best for us.

**Isaiah 53:6** Our heart needs guarding because we are like sheep that are prone to wander away from where we should be and end up following the wrong shepherd.

**Proverbs 19:3** When we are following our own ways our heart will go contrary to the wisdom of God and we 'pervert' (twist, overturn) the right ways of God and wind up in trouble.

**Matthew 6:19-21** The heart needs to be guarded because it is the wellspring of life, our attitudes, values, beliefs, and pursuits come from within the heart and we are prone to be selfish and ungodly.

**Matthew 15:7-9** When we do not guard our hearts our ability to worship correctly will fail. Millions try to be religious through the teachings of man and traditions of denominations but never please God.

### **Preparing The Heart**

**Psalm 78:7-8** The word steadfast means the same as prepared, established, firm, stable, to be fixed. God warns us to make sure our hearts are prepared against being stubborn and forgetful of God.

**Proverbs 15:33; 16:1, 23** The best way to prepare our heart in order to please God is to seek His wisdom through humility and Godly fear. God will give wisdom and understanding when we ask Him.

**Psalm 119:132-133** The best way to establish our heart is to seek God's mercy and His help with direction for our lives. He will keep us from the wiles of the devil when we admit that we cannot do it.

**Psalm 112:7-8; II Timothy 1:7** When our heart is fixed and steadfast on God we can be prepared against any fear the world, the flesh, and the devil may hand out to us at any given time.

**Psalm 108:1-5** When our heart is fixed and prepared we can be like David and worship God whether alone or in a group setting. The emphasis on preparing the heart is being “spiritually prepared” to worship through biblical disciplines: confession of all sin, fervent prayer, bible study, proper relationships with all believers, humble dedicated service within the church body. Is it any wonder our worship sometimes seems empty and forgetful?