

SPEAKER TODAY...THANK YOU!

Alexis Brown

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Our Ultimate Solution in Life

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord.” Proverbs 3:5-7

“The conclusion, when everything has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.” Ecclesiastes 12:13

August Birthdays

12 Debbie Hoffman 12 Noemi Critchfield

August Anniversaries

24 Jack and Noemi Critchfield

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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Man’s Heart

By Jack Critchfield

Heart disease is one of the top killers of our nation and perhaps the world. Therefore, we hear doctors giving their patients information about diet and exercise to help keep the heart functioning as it should. Many people must take medications to combat the effects of this or that heart disease. The emphasis upon one’s physical heart is understandable. But what about one’s spiritual heart? In the bible we hear a lot about the heart, but it is not talking about the physical heart.

Experience has said: “I wish I had used my head instead of my heart.” Implied is a difference between my rationality and emotions. The Bible uses the word heart to describe everything a man is or will ever be. In the Old Testament the word heart indicated “the feelings, the will, the intellect, the center of anything.” *“Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually”* (Genesis 6:5). This gives insight to the source of crimes, horrors, and moral decay in society worldwide. The New Testament uses the word heart (*kardia*) to describe our desires, perceptions, thoughts, understanding, reason, imagination, intentions, conscience, will, and faith. Our mind (heart) is not just our intellectual ability to think, but every element that leads us to make decisions in the life we live (cf. Matthew 12:35).

The Dark Heart

Paul describes the Gentiles through the centuries: *“For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened”* (Romans 1:21). The text describes those who forget God and follow their own imaginations as the standard of action in life. The result is spiritual anarchy and repeats the time of the Judges when *“...everyone did what was right in his own eyes”* (Judges 21:25).

The Corrupt Heart

Acts 8:18-24 describes a situation involving a Christian by the name of Simon. He sinned and was commanded to repent because the thoughts of his heart were evil (corrupt). When we consider the full meaning of the corrupt heart from the lips of Jesus in Matthew 13:18-22, we see what influences our minds.

The Hypocritical Heart

Jesus said, *“this people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me”* (Matthew 15:8). So many today say and do that which will bring favor to them or to accomplish a personal goal. Our words and actions reveal the true intent and thought of our heart (mind).

The Studious Heart

Solomon writes to Israel in this fashion: *“My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments”* (Proverbs 3:1). Jesus said of His word, *“And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty”* (Matthew 13:23). The mind (heart) of man will think in one direction on most subjects and issues, i.e., it will be filled with something. Only the person who actively pursues truth and fills his mind with truth will find the courage to obey the will of God, pattern his life after it, and be saved.

The Penitent Heart

Peter’s sermon on Pentecost caused his audience to ask, *“...Brethren, what shall we do?”* (Acts 2:37). His reply was to *“Repent, and each of you be baptized”* (Acts 2:38). Jesus said unless we repent, we perish (Luke 13:3, 5).

The Committed Heart

Barnabas exhorted the brethren at Antioch to *“...remain true to the Lord”* (Acts-11:23). This requires a commitment of living for God as expressed in Romans 12:1-2.

When the Wind Blows

Author Unknown

Years ago, a farmer owned land along the Atlantic seacoast. He constantly advertised for hired hands. Most people were reluctant to work on farms along the Atlantic. They dreaded the awful

storms that raged across the Atlantic, wreaking havoc on the buildings and crops.

As the farmer interviewed applicants for the job, he received a steady stream of refusals. Finally, a short, thin man, well past middle age, approached the farmer. “Are you a good farm hand?” the farmer asked him. “Well, I can sleep when the wind blows,” answered the little man. Although puzzled by this answer, the farmer, desperate for help, hired him.

The little man worked well around the farm, busy from dawn to dusk, and the farmer felt satisfied with the man’s work.

Then one night, the wind howled loudly in from off the shore. Jumping out of bed, the farmer grabbed a lantern and rushed next door to the hired hand’s sleeping quarters. He shook the little man and yelled, “Get up! Get up! A storm is coming! Tie things down before they blow away!”

The little man rolled over in bed and said firmly, “No sir. I told you, I can sleep when the wind blows.” Enraged by the old man’s response, the farmer was tempted to fire him on the spot. Instead, he hurried outside to prepare, as best he could under the circumstances, for the storm. To his amazement, he discovered that all the haystacks had been covered with tarpaulins. The cows were in the barn, the chickens were in the coops, and the doors were barred. The shutters were tightly secured. Everything was tied down. Obviously, nothing could blow away. The farmer then understood what his hired hand had meant, so he returned to his bed to also sleep while the wind blew.

MORAL: When we’re prepared, spiritually, mentally, and physically, we have nothing to fear. Can we sleep when the winds blow through our life? The hired hand in the story was able to sleep because he had secured the farm against the storm.

We, as believers in Christ, can secure ourselves against the storms of life if we become God’s child and then ground/anchor ourselves in the Word of God and His Promises therein.

Question: Since the Lord, through His Word (if we are grounded in it), guides and directs our steps, why should we fret to try to understand everything that happens along the way?