

Changes Of The Heart

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October 11, 2011

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Psalms 19:1-14

Psalms 19:14, *“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.”*

The word “heart” is used often in the Bible.

1 Pet. 3:1-4, *“Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.”*

Vine’s definition: “The heart is used figuratively for the hidden springs of the personal life.”

The heart contains “*the hidden man*”, or the inner man of which Peter wrote. It is that part of man that is capable of love, hate, joy, faith, etc. From birth to heaven, everyone goes through changes of the inner heart.

At this time we shall examine some of these changes.

The White Heart (born of innocence)

White is associated with cleanliness and purity. The Bible uses it in reference as having no sin.

Infants do not inherit personal sins. But they do inherit personal death.

- Rom. 5:12, *“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”*
- Heb. 9:27, *“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”*

Jesus accepts the pureness of children.

- Mark 10:14, *“But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.”*

- Matt. 18:3, “*And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.*”

Good cowboys in the old “B” westerns were generally seen wearing a white hat and riding a white horse. Conversely, the bad men wore black hats and rode dark horses.

Michael Medved, National movie critic said today’s movies depict heroes as doing bad things. It is no wonder this world’s values have gone to pot.

The Black Heart (full of sin)

At the age of accountability, a heart sins. The heart becomes deceitful. Jer. 17:9, “*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*”

Bible history reveals man’s sins.

- Gen. 6:5, “*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.*”
- Rom. 1:24-25, “*Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.*”
- Rom. 3:9, “*What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;*”
- Rom. 3:23, “*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*”
- 1 John 1:8-10, “*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*”

The Brown Heart (repentance)

God accepts a contrite (sorrowful and regretful, remorseful) heart. Psalms 51:17, “*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.*”

Before repentance one must have faith.

A recent poll showed that only 14% of Americans believe the Bible is really the word of God; that most believe it is but the opinions of the early writers.

- 1 Thess. 2:13, *“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.”*
- 2 Cor. 7:10, *“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”*

Repentance is a change of mind that brings about a change of action.

One of the problems in the conversion to Christianity is that people don't really want to change some of their actions. The change was never really made in their heart.

Two examples of remorse: Two people are chatting over coffee. Reaching for the sugar, one of them accidentally knocks his cup in the other's lap. A typical guilt reaction would be, “How stupid of me. I should have known better. Look at the mess I've made. I'm sorry.” Constructive sorrow is different. The offender might say, “I'm so sorry. Here are some napkins. I'll get the table cleaned up.” And he might also offer to pay the cleaning bill. Godly sorrow is constructive, as well as remorseful.

When we are in a state of sin, it is like riding a bicycle into the wind — God appears to be against us. Yet, like the cyclist who turns around and finds that the wind is helping him, we will find God working with us if we repent and change the direction of our lives. God didn't change — **we** did.

Biblical “unexamples”.

- Peter tells us that Noah was a *“preacher of righteousness”* (2 Pet. 2:5), but his message before entering the ark was not, “Something good is going to happen to you!”
- Amos was not confronted by the high priest of Israel for proclaiming, “Confession is possession!” He, as a prophet of God, warned Israel that they would be punished for their transgressions.

- Jeremiah was not put into the pit for preaching, “I’m O.K.; you’re O.K.” God, speaking through Jeremiah, told Israel to repent of their evil and He would not destroy them.
- John the Baptist did not lose his head because he preached, “Smile, God loves you!” He preached repentance when he was in the wilderness, and when he warned Herod that it was unlawful for him to have his brother’s wife.

What was the message of all of these men of God? One word: “Repent!”

The Red Heart (covered with Christ’s blood)

When a person sins, and is truly repentant of his sins, he still needs forgiveness of those sins.

This is made possible through the blood of Jesus.

- Eph. 1:7, *“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”*
- Heb. 13:12, *“Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.”*
- Rom. 8:1, *“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”*

How does one get into Christ?

- Rom. 6:4, *“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”*
- Gal. 3:27, *“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”*
- Isaiah 1:18, *“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”*
- Heb. 9:22, *“... without shedding of blood is no remission.”*
- Acts 2:38, *“... Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”*

The White Heart (forgiven)

Once a person has been baptized, he is a new creature in Christ.

- 2 Cor. 5:17, *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”*
- Titus 3:3-6, *“For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;”*
- Eph. 4:22-24, *“That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”*
- 1 John 1:7-9, *“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

The Pink Heart (happy heart)

Christians should be the happiest people on earth.

The Ethiopian eunuch rejoiced. Acts 8:26-39, *“And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the*

slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.”

He rejoiced because his sins were forgiven and he had hope of a life eternal in heaven.

Christians will often have persecutions here, but if we are like the apostles, we will still be happy.

- Acts 5:41, “*And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.”*
- Acts 16:25, “*And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.”*
- Phil. 4:4, “*Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.”*

The Green Heart (growth)

A heart must grow or it will spiritually die.

- 1 Pet. 2:2, “*As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”*
- 2 Pet. 3:18, “*But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”*

Spiritual exercise is necessary. 1 Tim. 4:7-8, “*But refuse profane and old wives’ fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.”*

Doctors claim that if we follow the regimen of regular exercise, we will achieve the desired results of weight loss and physical

fitness. When we try it, we don't get immediate results. In the first few weeks we get weak, tired, and sore. The secret is perseverance. Over the long haul, exercise does produce better physical conditioning. The same principle applies to obedience. It is not always comfortable, but over the long haul, it has good results.

The True Blue Heart (faithful)

This is very important, for only the faithful will reach heaven.

- Rev. 2:10, *“Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”*
- 1 Cor. 15:58, *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”*

What is our attitude toward faithfulness? Do we regard our faithfulness the same as we regard it in other avenues of life?

- If your car starts once every three times, is it reliable?
- If your paperboy skips delivery every Monday, is he trustworthy?
- If your refrigerator stops working for a day or two every now and then, do you say, “Oh well, it works most of the time.”?
- If your water heater provides an icy-cold shower every now and then, is it dependable?
- If you miss a couple of loan payments every year, does the bank say, “Ten out of twelve isn't bad”?
- If you fail to worship God as the Bible directs, would you expect to be called a faithful Christian?

We expect faithfulness and reliability from things and other people. Does not God expect the same from us? Do we see ourselves as volunteers in our religious life rather than duty-bound? For a volunteer, almost anything seems acceptable. For a bondservant who is duty-bound, faithfulness is expected.

Matt. 25:21, *“His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”*

The Gold Heart (heaven)

Heaven is specially prepared for those who themselves are prepared.

John 14:1-4, *“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.”*

This should be the dream of every Christian.

To reach heaven, every person must have his heart set on eternal life.

Conclusion

Do you have heart trouble? What is the condition of your heart? “Is thy heart right with God?”

How does a person get a pure heart? One must become a Christian. The following are the steps necessary to make that happen:

- **Faith.** Heb. 11:6, *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”* When I was in high school (I was about 17 years old), a neighbor boy my same age told me he was an atheist. Since I had been baptized, I took the opportunity to talk to him about the scriptures. He told me that he could see that living the life of a Christian was good, but he wasn’t sure if he believed there was a God. But to be on the safe side, maybe he should go to church, and when he dies and stands before God (if there is a God) on the day of Judgment (if there is a Judgment), maybe if God sees that he has gone to church and lived a good life that God would send him to heaven (if there is a heaven), and not to hell (if there is a hell). I told him, “It doesn’t work that way. You have to believe in Him with all your heart or you cannot please Him.”
- **Repentance.** Acts 2:38, *“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”* Acts 11:18, *“... Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.”* If while you were sleeping, you

heard a noise in the other room, and you think to yourself, "There's a burglar in my house!" So you reach for your cell phone, and as quietly as you can, you call the police, tell them there is a burglar in your house, and you give them your address. Soon, you heard them arrive and capture the thief. He yells, "I'm sorry; I'm sorry!" What is he sorry for? He is sorry that he got caught; not that he stole. In true repentance the thief would be sorry that he ever stole and wants to change his life so that he would never steal again. That is true repentance. It is a change of mind that brings about a change of action. That is what we have to do before we can become a Christian.

- **Confession.** Rom. 10:9-10, "*That 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. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*" What do we confess? That we believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Note that in the above scriptures that faith (believing), repentance, and confession are "**UNTO**" righteousness, life, or salvation. "Unto" means toward something; not that one has already attained.

- **Baptism.** It is baptism where righteousness, life, and salvation are attained. Jesus, himself, was baptized to fulfill all righteousness, "*But John forbid him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*" (Matt. 3:14-17). Jesus was baptized because God said it was the right thing to do. Did you see how pleased God was about Jesus being baptized? Jesus also said "*it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.*" We are baptized because it fulfills His righteousness, not because it is of our righteousness.

In fact, if we are not baptized, we are still in our sins. "*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*" (Acts 2:38). Peter, what did you say the reason of baptism is? "*for the remission of*

sins". Why would anyone want to leave out the step that removes our sins?

Jesus commanded that to reach salvation we must be baptized. *"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth **and** is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."* (Mark 16:15-16).

Ananias told Saul (before he was rename Paul) the very same thing, *"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."* (Acts 22:16). Baptism is a requirement given by God.

Baptism is called a burial. *"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."* (Rom. 6:4). Our old man is to be dead to us. *"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."* (Rom. 6:3-6). Baptism is God's blueprint for applying the blood of Christ in our lives by baptism. We are free from our old sins only when we are baptized.

This doesn't mean "sprinkling. The scripture above says baptism is a burial. We don't take a dead body to the cemetery and sprinkle a little dirt over it; we bury the body.

If you have not yet become a Christian, won't you consider it today?

