Lesson One – Introduction

*“But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”* *1 Samuel 16:7*

1. **Introduction.**

Christians who are intent on getting to heaven realize that their hearts are the key to getting there. Our study this quarter will examine the “hidden springs” (Proverbs 4:23) of human life – the heart. As the physical heart is essential to physical health and well-being, the spiritual heart of man is absolutely essential to our spiritual well-being, our relationship with our heavenly Father, and ultimately, our destiny. Indeed, the heart is the control center of a person’s life.

1. **The Heart— What do the scriptures say about it?**

The heart is the center of man’s entire mental and moral activities, the whole of the inner being of man. It is the center of human affections and the source of the spiritual life.

1. The heart is the center of a man’s life. Proverbs 4:23
2. The heart is capable of much good, (or bad). Matthew 12:35, 15:16-20
3. It is from the heart that life, joy, and peace emanate. John 7:38, Galatians 5:16-26

The heart of man is his worst part before it is regenerated, and the best afterward; it is the seat of principles, and the fountain of actions. The eye of God is, and the eye of the Christian ought to be, principally fixed upon it. The greatest difficulty in conversion, is to win the heart to God; and the greatest difficulty after conversion, is to keep the heart with God. Here lies the very force and stress of religion; here is that which makes the way to life a narrow way, and the gate of heaven a strait gate.

– Marvin Vincent

1. **The heart is where God *operates* within a Christian.**
2. The heart is the place where God’s Spirit dwells within His people. Galatians 4:6, Romans 5:5
3. The heart is where God has written His law. Hebrews 10:16-17, 2 Corinthians 3:2-3
4. The heart is the place where God guards, comforts, perfects, strengthens, and settles man.

Philippians 4:7, 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17, 1 Peter 5:10-11

1. **How the word “Heart” is used in the Bible.**

**The heart of man is his worst part before it is regenerated, and the best afterward; it is the seat of principles, and the fountain of actions. The eye of God is, and the eye of the Christian ought to be, principally fixed upon it. The greatest difficulty in conversion, is to win the heart to God; and the greatest difficulty after conversion, is to keep the heart with God. Here lies the very force and stress of religion; here is that which makes the way to life a narrow way, and the gate of heaven a strait gate.**

**– Marvin Vincent**

1. As the physical organ of the body.
	* + “And Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgment upon his heart.” Exodus 28:29-30
		+ Joab thrust three spears through the heart of Absalom. 2 Samuel 18:14
2. The Hebrew word for “heart” may refer to the inner part or middle of something.
	* “…and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea.” Exodus 15:8
	* “...and the mountain burned with fire to the very heart of the heavens.” Deut 4:11

**Question: What prophet of God prayed to the Lord from the heart of the sea?**

1. The word “heart” often refers to the inner man.
	* + "...man looks on the outward appearance, the Lord looks on the heart.” 1 Sam 16:7
		+ “…but rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.” 1 Peter 3:4
		+ “…that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man.” Ephesians 3:16-17
2. The word “heart” may refer to the **intellect or reasoning powers** of man.

* + - “And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, “Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this?” Mark 2:6-8
		- “…they gave the sense and helped them to understand the reading.” Nehemiah 8:8
1. The word “heart” may indicate one’s **desire, inclination, or will.**

* + “…whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it...” Exodus 35:5
	+ “I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart...” Psalm 86:11-12
	+ “But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” Matthew 5:28
1. The word "heart" is used to describe the emotions.

**Read the following verses and describe what emotion you see in each verse.**

 Exodus 4:14,27 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

John 14:1 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 14:13 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

John 16:22 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 5:18-21 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

John 11:35-36 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. The word “heart” sometimes describes the **conscience**.
	* + “Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Acts 2:37
		+ “For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart.” I John 3:20

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Intellect | Emotions | Will | Conscience |
| Thinking, Ma 9:4Understanding, Ma 13:15Reasoning, Mk 2:6Belief, Rom 10:9-10 | Weeping, Acts 21:8-13Rejoicing, John 16:22Rage, 2 Kings 5:12Zeal, Phil 3:6 | Directs action, Col 3:15Intent, Heb 4:12Decides, 1 Pet 4:1Purposes, 2 Cor 9:7 | Conscience sake, Ro 13:5 Convicted, 1 Jn 3:19No offense, Acts 23:1Cleansed, Heb 9:14 |

**The Fourfold Nature of the Human Heart (Adapted from Hamilton’s Commentary on Romans).**