

Matters Pertaining to the Heart
(Jeremiah 17:10)

Introduction:

1. The heart is a symbol that is closely associated with Valentine's Day.
2. Because Tuesday is recognized as Valentine's Day, perhaps this is a good time to study passages that deal with "matters pertaining to the heart."
3. We learn from Jeremiah 17:10 that God is very concerned about the hearts of His people -- He "searches" them, and He judges accordingly.
4. Additional passages show that:
 - a. God looks on the heart and not the outward appearance (1 Samuel 16:7)
 - b. God knows the secrets of the heart (Psalm 44:21).
5. Let us begin our study by considering several . . .

Discussion:

- I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES THAT PERTAIN TO THE HEART
 - A. David's writings teach us to allow God to examine our hearts so they will please Him.
 1. Psalm 19:14
 2. Psalm 139:23-24
 - B. Solomon's writings teach us to "*keep*" our hearts (Proverbs 4:23).
 1. We are to do this "*with all diligence.*"
 2. We are to do this because "*the issues of life*" come forth from the heart.
 3. Keeping the heart is a lifelong responsibility.
 - a. Solomon allowed his heart to be turned away from the Lord (1 Kings 11:3).
 - b. David showed how the heart can be turned back to God (Psalm 51:10).
 - C. Jesus emphasized the importance of having pure hearts when He gave the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:8).
 - D. These passages teach us that God is concerned about our hearts, and He wants us to be concerned about our hearts.
 - E. With these general principles before us, let us turn our attention to some . . .
- II. SPECIFIC ISSUES THAT PERTAIN TO THE HEART
 - A. Passages in the Old Testament teach that the heart is to be involved in:
 1. loving God (Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 22:37-38)
 2. believing in God (Psalm 14:1)
 3. trusting God (Proverbs 3:5-6)
 4. having a cheerful countenance (Proverbs 15:13a)
 5. our thinking (Proverbs 23:7a).
 - B. Passages in the New Testament teach that the heart is to be involved in:
 1. our speech (Matthew 12:34-35)
 2. our forgiveness of others (Matthew 18:35)
 3. bearing fruit (Luke 8:15)
 4. believing that Jesus is God's Son (Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:36-38)
 5. cleaving to the Lord (Acts 11:23)
 6. our obedience (Romans 6:17-18)
 7. our giving (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)
 8. our singing (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16)
 9. our love for one another (1 Peter 1:22).

Conclusion:

1. Have you asked the Lord to examine your heart lately?
2. If you have, what was His diagnosis?
3. If you have not, listen to David again (Psalm 139:23-24).