

Wisdom in our Affections

Sunday, January 30, 2011
10:30 AM

What we love is often hard to let go. If we hold dear in our hearts toward someone or something, then our lives will produce a passionate resolve to do all in our power to encase our lives around this affection. REALLY, we love what we love because it gives us JOY. If we love our wives, JOY is what we look for. If ourselves, same thing. Children, well....? :) What about our knowledge, our own way, our hopes, our dreams? JOY.

THE Heart. Jesus, is by far the greatest cardiologist that ever lived. He, at every turn, conditioned His arguments for those hearing Him to ponder and evaluate their heart. Their affections, their passions and conclude as to whether the heart within their souls lived for HIM or for some other lover.

In our journey through Proverbs, it's been a delight and a distress. Much of the time, I have poured through the countless phrases and endless rhythms to conclude a proper recipe for this sermon today, so as I proclaim from God's word, my prayer is that His word will send itself through the hearts of each listener, dividing the truth of the flesh and bring sight in the spirit of the true condition of our souls, that we might at once be made alive in Christ!

The heart of one who loves Christ is the heart of one who pants as the deer for water - such is the panting of our hearts today, His children, for the word of God. For the WISDOM of God, for the KNOWLEDGE of God, for His ever reigning and supreme majestic power in our lives.

Jesus states that wherever a man's treasure is, his heart is sure to be found.

Matthew 6:19-21 (ESV)

19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,

20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Today's message could easily be on "MONEY" but that is coming in the later months. Today's lesson could be on materialism or the eagerness to engage in personal interests, but for a primer, let's consider the root of all of these things: sin. The reality of our heart's desires. We, as sinful human beings are in bondage to the affections of the flesh. They come in many shapes, sizes and colors. From food to fashion. Cars and coats. Power and opinions... the list is never ending.

Today, church, I want us to engage our hearts in Christ and look deep within, much like we did last week at the seriousness of our hearts and the outpouring of our lusts which is a mirror laid bare of the inner core of our desire, our flesh. What do we really love and have passion for? Even in the realm of our FAITH, we can easily find lustful and worldly corners surrounding by fluffy figurines of Christ-like love and affections that look like Jesus, but are they really there? Do we really have them? Are we really in LOVE COMPLETELY with the true Christ?

Scripture teaches us to GUARD OUR HEARTS.

Proverbs 4:23 (ESV)

23 Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

Mark 7:21 -23 (ESV)

21 For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery,
22 coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness.
23 All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

Luke 6:45 (ESV)

45 The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Here in Proverbs 4:23, we find a certain recipe for our hearts:

1 - We find the fact that from our heart flows life.

Proverbs 4:20-23 (ESV)

20 My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings.
21 Let them not escape from your sight; keep them within your heart.
22 For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh.
23 Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

- This life is that which God has given. WORD OF WISDOM.
- What God has given is LIFE IN CHRIST, this is our passions.
- IF CHRIST is not flowing out of our hearts, then our LIFE is not life.
- LIFE then for us, is the root of the flesh which leads to death.
- DEATH is the opposite of the healing of all FLESH.
- OUR FLESH needs recreating so that we might be made alive in Christ!

2 - KEEP our hearts - A command given that we might be sensitive and careful to NEVER allow our hearts to part from GOD'S WISDOM.

- Wisdom from the LORD is FEAR of Him.
- The HEART is the center of a man. The essence of his being.
- The heart is where the mind thinks and plans are made and decided.
- The heart drives one where he currently sits and makes his hands move where they may.
- The heart is the conditioner of the soul, where the affections hold the reigns of one's life
- THERE IS A WAY THAT SEEMS RIGHT to man, but this way leads to death.
- THE HEART takes us there.

God's purpose for HIS people is to recreate us in mind, soul and body into the image of His son, Jesus Christ.

AFFECTIONS: Remember 1 John?

1 John 2:15-17 (ESV)

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world — the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions — is not from the Father but is from the world.

17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

And James

James 4:4 (ESV)

4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

This message today is a PRIMER to future Proverb readings and sermons. Today we will get to the HEART of our hearts so that EVERYTHING we learn in the next few weeks are filtered this way.

Our worldly passions are at constant war with the SPIRIT and ENEMIES with God (Jas 4:4)

The very nature of learning GOD and His WISDOM is to realize that only HE can create a heart that loves Him and WORSHIPS His holiness. Loves His Word, Loves His Son, Loves His WORTH!

What is better in life than KNOWING GOD? What is better than the treasure of Christ? Let's look at Proverbs 3:13-18...

Proverbs 3:13-18 (ESV)

13 Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding,
14 for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold.
15 She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her.
16 Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.
17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.
18 She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed.

There is NO COMPARISON to Christ. No Comparison to WISDOM (CHRIST)
HEAR THESE WORDS. Vv. 16 -18

Blessed - JOYFUL is the ONE.

SEEKING - Finding. Pursuing.

GAIN - Profit. Greater than RICHES of the world. Best return.

PRECIOUS - WORTH is greater, not just the profit to be made, but the worth.

GIFTS - The yield of her interest in both hands is LONG LIFE and RICHES and HONOR
This describes that SEEKING GOD is not a BORE or a KILL JOY but the fullness of JOY!

What GIFTS does the AFFECTIONS of your heart bring? What fruit, what gain from the LABOR of PURSUIT?

NOTHING brings the FULL JOY like Christ, for HE IS JOY!

...Is it wise to DESIRE the world and the things of the world?

...Is it wise to DESIRE RICHES and RETIREMENT and hold on to all that WE have earned?

...Is it wise to DESIRE CRUMBLED DEAD GARBAGE when the wisdom of the Lord is LIFE.

... CHRIST died, the wisdom of God, righteousness; to make PEACE WITH GOD for us.

CLING - Hold fast. We hold fast to what we CHERISH and ADORE and we are

JOYFUL! (Blessed)

There are some who can hear the words and tell themselves that they LIVE for Christ, Love Him and LONG FOR HIM as their highest treasure. Is that OBVIOUS. Does your life exude your passion for Christ and His GLORY? Does your greatest JOY find itself as CHRIST?

Consider several things in closing today. First, ask yourself, "Do I know that all I am and think and do is in the eyes of God?"

CORAM DEO - in the face of God. We are living our lives in the presence and audience of our creator and nothing is hidden from His sight. His holiness is the measure of judgment against us and each inch of righteousness will be measured by every mile of our depravity and recompense comes. Look at Prov 5:21 -33

Proverbs 5:21 -23 (ESV)

21 For a man's ways are before the eyes of the Lord, and he ponders all his paths.
22 The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is held fast in the cords of his sin.
23 He dies for lack of discipline, and because of his great folly he is led astray.

NOW LET'S TEST our hearts again. Let's look at the HEART OF THE GOSPEL.

Some of us when we move from this point today we condition ourselves to be "SORRY" for sin. Some of us are fearful. Others might just be considering the reality of God's holiness for the first time.

There is a WAY that leads to death. The affections of the world are affections for things that are already dead.

This is the way of those who do not CHERISH the wisdom of God and the ways of the WORD but rather long for the desires of the flesh.

WORLDLY SORROW leads to death.

GODLY SORROW leads to REPENTANCE and ETERNAL LIFE.

Proverbs 4:14-15 (ESV)

14 Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of the evil.

15 Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass on.

The difference is this. One is sorry and wants to be forgiven. The other is sorry and fights to stop sinning.

WHY do I put this here? Because this is the ultimate test of our affections. Godly Sorrow vs. Worldly Sorrow.

How often do you sit up all night confessing your sins one by one?
How often do you cry out for mercy and forgiveness?
How often are you aware of your very very sinful heart?
How often are you bothered by the heart of idolatry?

WHEN you come to this place is it daily? Is it hourly? Is it often or never?
Here's the test: When you cry out in CONFESSION do you fight to TURN and correct your sins? Or do you just remain calm and thankful that God has forgiven the very

sin that you will not stop doing?

Friends, this is a slap at grace. We are all guilty. Worthy of wrath, but GOD in His rich mercy has given His Son to pay for JUST THIS UNBELIEF and INABILITY to REPENT.

WHAT God recreates, He continues to mold into the likeness of His son and His son LOVES HIM and HIS WILL and HIS LAW!

BACK TO THE BEGINNING AGAIN: Guard Your Heart.

Jeremiah 17:9 says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?"

Genesis 8:21, God himself says, "The imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth."

This is the reality of our hearts and our hope is not in ourselves, but in Christ alone!

Proverbs 28:26 (ESV)

26 Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered.

1 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV)

18 Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.

Guard your heart against the love of the flesh and this world. Long for the affections of the SPIRIT and PRAY and STUDY to find the wisdom of GOD daily. Otherwise, you will find yourself back in the hands of this BATTLE.

Last week I stated:

Our Hearts - Our affections drive us to anger. When what we love is not what we love. When what we want is not what we have. Anger over our desires is antichrist. Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man, Proverbs 22:24 (ESV)

This week I can add:

Our affections drive us either toward or away from the Gospel. Where is our heart? In the hands of Christ or lost in the world?

REMEMBER we are not only in the EYES OF GOD, but He searches our hearts and knows all things. Our thoughts, our motives, our imagination.

Are YOU BATTLEING in the MIND for JOY and REST in the GRACE OF GOD? Fight with the weapons of righteousness, fight by daily coming for GRACE through His word.

FIGHT until there is no fight in you and God will continually fight for you for HE IS FAITHFUL!

FIGHT with your church family to be pure and love each other.

FIGHT with your marriage to forgive and repent.

FIGHT with your STUFF and MONEY and push it away to get closer to Christ. BE TRANSFORMED by the gospel, today! Repent and believe on Christ!