

The Christian Heart

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We are going to be talking about the heart. We are all familiar with our physical heart. Did you know that it beats about 100,000 times a day pumping blood throughout our body to provide oxygen and nutrients so that we can live? Most of the time we don't give it much thought unless it begins to give us problems, then we become concerned, and rightly so, because we understand that if our heart fails to beat we die. The heart affects the quality and length of our lives. If we want a good quality of life we must have a heart that is strong. To have a strong heart we must take care of it by eating right and exercising. And if we do develop heart problems we will do whatever it takes to try and make it as healthy and normal as we can. But, what about our spiritual heart, our **Christian Heart**...? Are we as concerned about our spiritual heart as we are about our physical heart? We should be because just as our physical heart keeps us alive physically; our spiritual heart is what keeps us alive spiritually! When the Bible speaks about the spiritual heart it is talking about our consciousness, our thoughts, the part of us that thinks and reasons. James tells us that if we want to spend eternity in heaven with God, we must be ready to "establish our hearts"....

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Here James says we must be patient and ready for the coming of the Lord by "establishing our hearts". How do we "establish our hearts"?

There are several things that we can do to establish our hearts and have the type of Christian Heart that God wants us to have. The first thing we want to notice is that a Christian Heart is a heart that **receives God's Word**...

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In Matthew 18 Jesus gives a parable concerning the farmer who sowed seed. Let's read verses 3-9...

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In verses 18-23 Jesus tells us the meaning of the parable...

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Jesus is telling us that there are several different types of soil or hearts, they are **the wayside soil**...

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We need to have a heart of “good soil” one that is ready to receive God’s Word and will grow and bear fruit, hundred fold, sixty fold and 30 fold! But the Christian Heart is also a heart that **loves God**....

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In Matthew we see the Pharisees trying to trick Jesus by asking Him, “What is the greatest commandment?” Notice what Jesus tells them...

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What did Jesus say was the greatest commandment in the law? To love God with all your HEART, soul and mind. Not just love God with part of your heart but ALL of our heart! The Christian Heart that loves God is a heart that **puts God first**...

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Here we see Jesus teaching that God takes care of the birds of the air and the lilies of the field and He will take care of us too! Therefore, do not worry...

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It is hard for us not to worry about things in our lives. But Jesus tells us that if we will put God first in our lives the things that we need will be taken care of. Do we love God that much? Do we put God first in our lives? I am sure that this is an area in which all of us could improve. Next, we see that a Christian Heart that loves God is also a heart that **does the will of God**....

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Matthew 7:21 tells us....

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We have all heard the phrase, “Actions speak louder than words”. That is exactly what Jesus is talking about here. Many **say** that they love Jesus, or call Him “Lord, Lord” but Jesus says, the real test is if you are willing to **do** what I say! The Christian Heart that does the will of God is also a heart that **keeps God’s commandments**...

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John 14:15 simply says...

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“if you love Me, keep My commandments.’ Not just some commands or just the ones that we like, but all of God’s commandments. For the Christian who truly loves God and keeps His commandments we know that all **things work together for good...**

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Romans 8:28 says...

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We may not always understand how this verse works in our life, especially when things are not going as we would like, but we must have faith that God is in control and remember that our ultimate goal is to go to heaven. We must always put our complete trust and faith in God. As we have seen, the Christian Heart that truly loves God is a heart that **puts God first...**

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Next, we see that the Christian Heart is not only a heart that loves God but that also **sanctifies God....**

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Notice what I Peter 3:13-15 says...

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We are to sanctify God in our hearts! What does **Sanctify** mean? – It means to be set apart. We must not only sanctify God, or set Him apart in our lives, we must also sanctify ourselves. As Christians we are to be separated or set apart from the ways of the world. So, how do we sanctify God? It all begins **by His Word...**

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John 17:14-17 says...

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We are sanctified, or set apart, by the Word of God. When we read and study God's Word and allow it to work in our hearts we turn to God and away from the evils of the world. I Cor. 6:11 tells us that we are sanctified **by baptism....**

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I Cor. 6:11 says...

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When we were 'washed' or baptized, we were sanctified and justified in the sight of God. After we are baptized sanctification comes by living our lives **as Christians...**

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I Cor. 1:2 says...

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Paul is writing this letter to the church or the Christians at Corinth. He says that they had been sanctified in Christ Jesus. How do we get into Christ Jesus? The only way we get into Christ Jesus is through baptism as we are told in Galatians 3:27...

We also see that by being sanctified we receive **to receive an inheritance...**

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Acts 20: 32 says...

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And Act 26:18 says.... Those who have obeyed God's Word and been baptized have turned their hearts from darkness (the power of Satan) to light (to God) and they receive the forgiveness of sins and an inheritance, eternal life! What a great blessing that is! So we see that the Christian Heart sanctifies God **by His Word...**

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And the last thing we want to notice is, the Christian Heart is a heart **that is pure....**

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Let's read I Timothy 1:5 and II Timothy 2:22....

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And Peter wrote this in I Peter 1:22...

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Since we have obeyed God and become Christians He calls upon us to have a pure heart obeying the Word of God. A Christian Heart that is pure is a heart that **speaks good things**....

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Matthew 12:34-35 says...

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Our heart, our mind and our thoughts determine the type of person that we are. **Proverbs 23:7** says, "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he." A person that is evil, is evil because of the evil thoughts and desires that are in their heart. A person that is good, is good because of the good thoughts and desires that are in their heart. A Christian Heart that is pure is a heart that **knows righteousness**....

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It says...

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If we have God's law in our hearts we know righteousness. Having God's Word in our hearts **keeps us from sinning**...

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Psalms 119:11 says that...

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By knowing God's Word, and having it in our hearts, we have the power to overcome temptations like Jesus did in Matthew 4 when He was tempted by Satan. Each time Jesus was tempted He would fight back by quoting God's Word with, "it is written." If we know God's Word and then obey it we will not sin. Having a pure heart will **bring salvation**....

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In I Timothy 4:13-16 the Apostle Paul tells the young preacher Timothy...

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A Christian Heart that is pure is one that reads, study's and does what is written in God's Word. By doing that, we will save not only ourselves but others that will hear and obey. So as we have seen, a pure heart is one that **speaks good things...**

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Back to our original question, **“How do we establish our hearts?”....**

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Notice what Paul says in II Thess. 2:16-17...

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When we obey God and live our lives according to God's Word our hearts will be established doing good in word and deed, which means we are to do good both in our speech and in our actions. What about you....

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.... **“Do you have a Christian Heart established by God's Word?”**

Make final remarks and extend the invitation.