

THE HEART THAT CAN BE SAVED

Introduction

- 1) **Proverbs 21:2** – the Lord “weighs the hearts”
- 2) The “heart” is a very critical part of the physical and spiritual person
 - a) Heart problems are very dangerous – can be fatal if not treated!
- 3) While physical heart troubles are a serious problem, *spiritual* heart troubles are much more dangerous – can end in *eternal* death
- 4) God seeks to save the spiritual hearts of men today – do you have a heart that can be saved?
 - a) Do you have a “noble and good heart” that will receive the word of God (Lk. 8:15; Jas. 1:21)?

I) **AN OPEN HEART** (Acts 16:13-14)

- A) A heart must first be opened so that it can be examined and operated on
- B) Lydia’s heart was opened by the Lord – **How?**
 - 1) Her heart was opened when she “heard” the word preached (Acts 16:14a)
 - 2) The word of God is the only instrument that can pierce into the thoughts and intents of the sinner’s heart (Heb. 4:12)
- C) Lydia’s heart was opened by the Lord – **Why?**
 - 1) Her heart was opened so that she could “heed the things spoken by Paul” (Acts 16:14b)
 - 2) An open heart is ready for the healing work of the gospel message (Rom. 1:16)
- D) Some refuse to allow their hearts to be opened by the Word of God (Acts 28:23-27)
 - 1) They refuse to give time or effort to hearing the truth of God (cf. 2 Tim. 4:3-4)
 - 2) One will not believe unless he will first allow his heart to be opened (1 Cor. 2:12-14)
 - 3) Does your heart open or harden when the truth of God is presented to you (Acts 13:44-48)?

II) **A BURNING HEART** (Luke 24:27, 32)

- A) A heart that burns is one that is convicted by the teaching of God’s word
- B) Cleopas and his friend were affected by the teaching of Jesus
 - 1) Their hearts were opened and the revealed truth “burned” in their minds (conscience)
 - 2) The opening (expounding-teaching-preaching) of Scripture is how God leads the sinner’s heart unto salvation in Christ (Jn. 6:44-45)
 - 3) Not a “better-felt-than-told” experience, but the impartation of knowledge about God’s grace in Christ and man’s responsibility to obey the will of Christ
- C) Many resist the teaching of the truth (Acts 7:54; cp. 2:37)
 - 1) The “wayside” ground is the heart that will not heed the word (Lk. 8:11-12)
 - 2) Devil steals away the word before it can work in the heart of the sinner

III) **AN OBEDIENT HEART** (Romans 6:17)

- A) An obedient heart is one that heeds the word of truth that burns within an open heart
- B) To heed the word is to respond in obedience to the Lord’s commands to be saved
 - 1) Baptized into Christ (Acts 2:41; Rom. 6:3-4); Lydia obeyed the gospel (Acts 16:15)
- C) Some will still resist when they know they need to obey (Acts 24:25; cp. Acts 8:36)
 - 1) God’s word is the power to save, but we must want our hearts opened, desire to understand the truth, and then be willing to obey it

Conclusion

Will you allow God’s word to open your heart, burn within it, and teach you the commands of God? Will you continue to have such a heart as a Christian? If so, you have a heart that can be saved!