



GLOBAL  
MINISTRY  
DEVELOPMENT

*Russ Kennedy*

# A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF THE HEART

Student Guide

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# Course Overview

## *Aim*

## *Teaching Strategy*

## *Scope and Sequence*

Lesson	Title	Text	Aim
1	A Heart Attack	Genesis 3	How the heart functions before the fall and under attack by Satan
2	Hearts in the Wilderness	Deuteronomy 8	How God tests and exposes the heart by bringing trouble and blessing.
3	Penetrating the Heart	Jeremiah 17: Hebrews 4:12-13	How the heart is so desperately wicked that only God can know it and only the Word can penetrate it.
4	The Heart in the New Covenant	Jeremiah 31 Hebrews 8	
5	Heart Models	Various	Visible, graphic models summarizing the teaching of the heart
6	Heart Circumcision	Colossians 2	The foundation for heart and behavior transformation lies in the core doctrine of our position and identity in Christ.
7-9	Heart Transformation through Identity in Christ	Romans 6-8 Galatians 5	The functional heart and behavior transformation comes in the application of our position and identity in Christ.
10-12	Practical Examples	Various	Case studies

## Supplemental

Lesson	Title	Text	Aim
13	Hardness of Heart	Various	Dealing with hardness of heart
14	Responsibility to our Hearts	Various	Commands relating to our hearts

### *Lessons*

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# Lesson 1

## *A Heart Attack*

### Genesis 3

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*Adam and Eve are vulnerable and Satan is vile.*

### Summary

The Bible establishes in the record of the fall in Genesis 3, where the real battle to obey God is located. There will be external temptations. They will be presented through the body (eyes, ears, etc.). They will come into the heart, the inner man, where beliefs and wants flow in words. Out of the words of the heart, the Word of God is believed or denied resulting in sin.

***The Commencement of Sin*** (v.1-7)

**The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Tempter** (v.1)

*There is more going on here than just an animal tempting Eve.*

*Satan never appears as he is.*

*Here is the introduction of competing voices.*

**The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Temptation** (v.2-6)

***Through \_\_\_\_\_ Directed at the Heart \_\_\_\_\_*** (v.2-5)

***Satan \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word*** (v.1)

Is the Word she has \_\_\_\_\_?

Is the Word she has \_\_\_\_\_?

***Eve \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word*** (v.2-3)

She leaves out "freely" and "all" thus making God less \_\_\_\_\_.

She adds "neither touch it" thus making God more \_\_\_\_\_.

She leaves out "surely", making God less serious about \_\_\_\_\_.

***Satan \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word*** (v.4-5)

He attacks God's \_\_\_\_\_.

He attacks God's \_\_\_\_\_.

***Through \_\_\_\_\_ Directed at the Heart \_\_\_\_\_*** (v.6)

***Temptation appeals through a physical medium, \_\_\_\_\_.***

***Temptation appeals to the wants of the heart, \_\_\_\_\_.***

***Temptation appeals in \_\_\_\_\_ heart elements.***

Your wants are shaped by what you \_\_\_\_\_.

Your wants and desires are carried about in \_\_\_\_\_.

You are responsible to \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_ your wants.

**The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Temptation (v.7)**

***Sin Resulting from \_\_\_\_\_***

***Shame Resulting from \_\_\_\_\_***

***The Confrontation of Sin (v.8-13)***

**Engages through \_\_\_\_\_ (v.8)**

***Live in the context of fellowship and relationship.***

***God initiates an active pursuit of the sinner.***

***Sin destroys the relationship breaking fellowship through fear and folly.***

***Sin destroys ones ability to see clearly, contrary to what was promised in the temptation.***

**Exposes through \_\_\_\_\_ (v.9-13)**

***Questions around \_\_\_\_\_ (v.9-10)***

***Questions examining \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (v.11a)***

***Questions about the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (v.11b-12)***

***Questions requiring \_\_\_\_\_ (v.13).***

**Explains through Illustrative \_\_\_\_\_**

Denial – We will cover the effects of our sin.

Escape/Avoid – We will hide from our accusers.

Blame-shift – We will place blame on others.

## **Lessons for Learning**

*Pay close attention to the Word of God.*

**Reject all forms of false counsel.**

**Watch over your heart with diligence.**

**Respond in humble repentance when confronted with godly counsel.**

**Accept the consequences of sin.**

**Bank your hope on the Redeemer of our souls.**

## **Questions for Discussion**

What 2 functions of the heart are attacked?

What is the progression in the temptation?

What is at the center of the attack? Why?

In what way is God changed? How do we also do that?

Temptations are always presented aimed at what? Through what?

How do you know what your heart believes and wants?

Why do you want what you do?

According to Genesis 3, what are the results of sin?

What does God do to confront and expose their sin?

How can we help see our hearts through questions?

How do we tend to respond to sin?

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## Notes



## Lesson 2

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### *Hearts in the Wilderness* Deuteronomy 8; Matthew 4; Numbers 11

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*Tested through temptation to see if we will obey God from the heart*

#### Summary

The wilderness is a hard place and a testing place; but it is a transforming place. Through the situations of life, God's providences are designed to give us opportunities to obey Him from the heart or to expose a sinful heart.

<b>Heart _____</b>	<b>Work of the Wilderness</b>	<b>Deuteronomy 8</b>
God's Providences in _____	Them	(v.2a)
God's Purpose to _____	Them	(v.2b)
God's Program to _____	Them	(v.2c)
<i>The testing involves measuring their _____.</i>		
<i>The testing involves exposing their _____.</i>		
God's Provisions to _____	Them	(v.3-4)
<i>Brought them through humbling _____.</i>		
<i>Allowed them to suffer in the lack of _____.</i>		
<i>_____ for them in supernatural ways.</i>		
<i>Taught them the importance of the _____ for daily living.</i>		
God's Principles to _____	Them	(v.5-7ff)
<i>Accept God's paternal _____.</i>		(v.5)
<i>_____ in God's ways with holy fear.</i>		(v.6)
<i>Expect God's _____ in His own time and way.</i>		(V.7-10)
God's Precept to _____	Them	(v.11-16)

*Lest we \_\_\_\_\_ God in the midst of plenty. (v.11-16)*

*Lest we \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves in the midst of pride (v.17-20)*

*Heart \_\_\_\_\_ Work of the Wilderness Matthew 4*

*\_\_\_\_\_ by God (3:17)*

*In His \_\_\_\_\_*

*In His \_\_\_\_\_*

*\_\_\_\_\_ by the Spirit (4:1)*

*Follows the \_\_\_\_\_ of God*

*Serves the \_\_\_\_\_ of God*

*\_\_\_\_\_ by the Fasting (v.2)*

*\_\_\_\_\_ by the Devil (v.3-10)*

*In the Pressing \_\_\_\_\_ of the Body (v.3-5)*

*To exercise His creative power to \_\_\_\_\_*

*To be \_\_\_\_\_ for the will of God*

*To heed the forceful \_\_\_\_\_ of the tempter*

*To succumb to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the body.*

*In the Presumptive Misuse of the \_\_\_\_\_ (v.6-7)*

*By changing the \_\_\_\_\_ of the text (Psalm 91:9-13)*

*By seeking to \_\_\_\_\_ God*

*By attempting to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus' life early*

*In the Perverted Worship of the Lord (v.8-10)*

*By offering \_\_\_\_\_ now instead of the pain now.*

*By making \_\_\_\_\_ he cannot and will not keep.*

*By eliciting \_\_\_\_\_ he does not deserve or is entitled to.*

*Complaining from a \_\_\_\_\_ Heart Numbers 11*

*\_\_\_\_\_ and Danger Numbers 11:1-3*

*Situation – what is their life like?*

*Response – what do they do and feel?*

\_\_\_\_\_ – *what is in their hearts?*

*Consequences – what is the result?*

*Provisions – how does God provide?*

\_\_\_\_\_ and Sameness

Numbers 11:4-35

*Situation – what is \_\_\_\_\_ their heart?*

*Response – what do they do and feel?*

*Heart Issues – what are they \_\_\_\_\_ to themselves?*

*Consequences – what happened as a result?*

*Provisions – how did God \_\_\_\_\_ with them?*

Stress and Demands

Numbers 11:10-30

*Situation – what is the \_\_\_\_\_ of temptation?*

*Response – how does he \_\_\_\_\_ this and \_\_\_\_\_ himself?*

*Heart Issues – how does he \_\_\_\_\_ his situation?*

*Consequences – how does God deal with him?*

*Provisions – what has God provided for Moses?*

Principle: God may in a single set of circumstances be testing different people in different ways.

## **Lessons for Living**

God is at work to \_\_\_\_\_ what is in your heart.

Your heart exerts an inescapable \_\_\_\_\_ over your behavior – your actions and emotions.

\_\_\_\_\_ weakness and vulnerability are special times of testing and temptation for our good.

Complaining is both a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_.

**There is neither \_\_\_\_\_ nor \_\_\_\_\_ too great for us to bear; God has made provision for them both.**

**Our great and merciful High Priest has been \_\_\_\_\_ just as we are and is able to come to our aid.**

### **Questions for Discussion**

What is God doing in the wilderness?

Why does God test us?

How do these categories of temptation come to us?

What is the focus of Satan's temptation? What is he challenging?

What are the implications for us when the occasion for Jesus' testing is an issue of the body?

How does Jesus respond to every temptation? Why?

What is going on in your life that is like Numbers 11?

How does Jesus provide you help in times of need?

# Lesson 3

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## *Penetrating Hearts*

**Ezekiel 14; Hebrews 4:12-13**

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*Desperately wicked and blinded hearts are open to God and His Word*

### **Summary**

While our hearts are desperately wicked, deceived and inscrutable, God knows our hearts and tests what guides our actions and emotions. God is working toward heart transformation through His work and through His Word.

### **Examining Our Bad \_\_\_\_\_**

#### **Biblical Models and Themes**

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1 John 5:21; Ezek 14:1-7; Rom 1:18-32; Eph 5:5; Col 3:5; Phil 3:19

#### **Ruling \_\_\_\_\_**

Eph 2:3; 4:22; James 1:13-15; 4:1-3; Gal 5:16-17; 1 Peter 2:11; 4:2; 1 John 2:16-17; Exodus 20:17; Rom 1:24-27; 7:7-11,14-25; 8:1-17

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Matt 6:24; Rom 6:15-23; Gen 4:6-7; Psalm 119:133

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Matt 6:19-21; Matt 13:44-45; 1 Tim 6:19; Heb 11:26; Psalm 119:72, 127

#### **Good or bad \_\_\_\_\_ with good or bad fruit.**

Luke 6:43-45

#### **What/whom we \_\_\_\_\_.**

2 Tim 3:1-5; John 21:15-17; 1 John 2:15

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Luke 24:17-21; 1 Timothy 6:17; Psalm 42-43; 71

#### **In what/whom we \_\_\_\_\_.**

Jeremiah 17:5-8; Psalm 20:7-8; Proverbs 3:5

#### **What/whom we \_\_\_\_\_.**

Matt 10:28; 1 Pet 3:13-15; Eccl 12:13

\_\_\_\_\_

Matt 7:24-27; 1 Tim 6:17-19; Heb 12:27-28

**What/whom we \_\_\_\_\_.**

Matthew 6:9

\_\_\_\_\_ **of the Heart**

**Heart Idols in \_\_\_\_\_**

**Ezekiel 14:1-7**

**Who are these idolaters?**

**What sins does the Lord expose?**

**What is the Lord's goal?**

(v.5) To \_\_\_\_\_ their hearts

**What is the Lord's command?**

**Principles from the Text**

Idolatry is a problem for everyone, even \_\_\_\_\_ people.

Idolatry is rooted in our \_\_\_\_\_.

Our idols exert an inescapable, \_\_\_\_\_ influence on us.

Transformation must occur at the \_\_\_\_\_ level.

Transformation involves turning from \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Heart Idols in \_\_\_\_\_**

**1 John 5:21**

Idolatry is any \_\_\_\_\_ for the living God.

**Heart Idols in \_\_\_\_\_**

**Romans 1:18-32**

18- The \_\_\_\_\_ that operates as lies in the realm of heart idols.

23

- Exchange the eternal glory of God for the mortal creatures (v.23).
- Exchange the truth of God for a lie (v.25a).

- Exchange worship and service of God for the creature (v.25b).
- Exchange obedience to God for pleasure (v.26).

24- Given over to \_\_\_\_\_ because of embracing \_\_\_\_\_.  
25

26- \_\_\_\_\_ by being given over to the flesh

28 - As \_\_\_\_\_ passions (v.26-27)

- As \_\_\_\_\_ minds (v.28)

29- \_\_\_\_\_ fruits and harvests of ever more dominating sins  
32

## Examples of Idol Clusters

### ***Greed***

***Ephesians 5:5 // Colossians 3:5***

### ***Fear of man, acceptance, approval***

Proverbs 29:25

John 12:42-43

Galatians 2:11-13

### ***Success, power, control***

1 Sam 13:8-14

Luke 22:24-27

3 John 1:9-10

Isaiah 30:1-2

### ***Comfort, convenience, tranquility, ease***

Luke 9:23-24,57-62

### ***Money, possessions, coveting***

Matt 6:19-24

Luke 12:15; 16:13-15

1 Tim 6:9-10,17

2 Tim 3:2

## ***Sensual pleasure***

2 Samuel 11:2-4; 13:1-14

Philippians 3:19

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

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*What does it mean, then, to allow Jesus to be Lord of our lives? What does it mean that anything is the lord of our life? Just this: Whatever controls us is lord. The person who seeks acceptance is controlled by the people he or she wants to please. We do not control ourselves. We are controlled by the lord of our life. If Jesus is our Lord, then he is the one who controls, he has the ultimate power.”*

*(Rebecca Pippert, Out of the Saltshaker, p. 53)*

### **Summary about Heart Idols:**

**Heart idols are the \_\_\_\_\_ gods we erect in our hearts in competition with the true and living God.**

**We choose to obey them and trust them to bring us the \_\_\_\_\_ we want**

**In turn, they rule and drive us. We are both willful choosers and helpless \_\_\_\_\_ to our idols.**

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*“The fallen human heart cannot see beauty in holiness, but finds pleasure in that which ultimately brings ruin.” (Thomas E. McComiskey, Hosea, on Hosea 11:5)*

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*Idolatry: “When we act as if something below God could make us happy without God, or that God cannot make us happy without the addition of something else.” (Stephen Charnock)*

***The Difficulty Examining the Heart***

***Jeremiah 17:5-10***



**The Severe \_\_\_\_\_ of God's People**

**The \_\_\_\_\_ for Interpreting God's Providences (v.5-8)**

The primary contrast is between those who trust in the \_\_\_\_\_ and those who trust in the \_\_\_\_\_.

*The Thorn Bush (v.5-6)*

*The Fruitful Tree (v.7-8)*

**The \_\_\_\_\_ with the Heart (v.9-10)**

*Its \_\_\_\_\_ (v.9)*

*Its \_\_\_\_\_ (v.9)*

*Its \_\_\_\_\_ (v.10)*

*Not impossible to know*

*Searched by the Lord*

*Evidenced by fruit and ways (v.10)*

***The Power to Penetrate the Heart Hebrews 4:12-16***

The issue is a lack of faith (entering into the rest) that results in disobedience.

**The Characteristics of the Word (v.12)**

*In its \_\_\_\_\_*

*In its \_\_\_\_\_*

*The Word \_\_\_\_\_ the heart's hardness.*

*The Word \_\_\_\_\_ the heart's functions.*

**Our \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord (v.13)**

**The Exhortations for the Christian (v.14-16)**

*Continue to \_\_\_\_\_ Truth (v.14)*

*\_\_\_\_\_ to God with Confidence (v.16)*

*\_\_\_\_\_ the Mercies of Christ (v15)*

## **Lessons for Living**

God is working to show you what you \_\_\_\_\_ in.

Know that your heart is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. It is not easy to “read” or “hear”.

God \_\_\_\_\_ our hearts and the Word \_\_\_\_\_ our hearts.

Our merciful and faithful high priest will show us mercy and give us \_\_\_\_\_ in our time of need.

## **Questions for Discussion**

Is the inner man, the heart, totally hidden from us? From God?

How do we respond to people who say, “No one but God knows what is going on in the heart?”

What are the hard times (and sometimes the good times) doing for us?

What tool has God given us so that we can “see” our hearts?

What are the great dangers to us (in Hebrews 4)?

What does God expect from us if Jesus is a merciful High Priest?

What do we expect from God if we do the above?

# Lesson 4

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## *The Heart in the New Covenant*

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*Out of the heart come all sins as the overflow of the heart.*

### **Summary**

Using our communication, talk and words as the primary example, Jesus highlights the inner man, the heart, as the root source and sole cause of all actions and emotions. Thus, true Biblical change takes place through heart change as provided by the work of the cross and our identity as New Covenant believers.

### **Review**

**Two Dimensions of Each Person:** \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

### ***The Heart as the Source of All Actions and Emotions***

**The \_\_\_\_\_ for Diligent Observation                      Proverbs 4:20-27**

***Our Responsibilities in Relation to our \_\_\_\_\_ (v.20-23)***

Pay \_\_\_\_\_ to God's Word by intentional hearing.

\_\_\_\_\_ God's Word into the heart so that we think with and in Bible.

\_\_\_\_\_ God's declarations about God's Word.

\_\_\_\_\_ your heart as the source spring of your life's expression and experience.

***Our Responsibilities in Relation to our \_\_\_\_\_ (v.24-27)***

In our \_\_\_\_\_ (v.24)

In our \_\_\_\_\_ (v.25)

In our \_\_\_\_\_ (v.26-27)

### **The Root and Fruit in Jesus' Teaching**

***The Heart as a \_\_\_\_\_***

Luke 6:43-45; Matthew 12:33-37

***The Heart as the \_\_\_\_\_ of Evil***

Matthew 15:1-20 // Mark 7:1-23

***The Glorious Provision in the \_\_\_\_\_***

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Its \_\_\_\_\_ for All

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 10:11-18

*Every person in the New Covenant \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord.*

*Every believer \_\_\_\_\_ a new heart*

*Ezekiel 11:19;36:26*

*We receive the Holy Spirit*

*We receive a new heart*

*The Word is put in every believers heart/ mind.*

Its \_\_\_\_\_ in Salvation

Hebrews 8:13; 9:15

Its \_\_\_\_\_ in Ministry

2 Corinthians 3:6

*A ministry of the \_\_\_\_\_, not the letter of the Old (v.6).*

*A ministry full of greater \_\_\_\_\_ than the Old (v.7-11).*

*A ministry that unveils the \_\_\_\_\_ glory of the Old (v.12-16).*

*A ministry that \_\_\_\_\_ in a Christ-centered way (v.17-18).*

*A ministry that gives \_\_\_\_\_ from the slavery of the old (v.17-18).*

*A ministry that is exercised with godly \_\_\_\_\_ (4:1-6)*

*A ministry that will lead to great \_\_\_\_\_ and great \_\_\_\_\_ (4:7f)*

*The \_\_\_\_\_ Principle of Old and New*

Old and New \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Corinthians 3:1-18)

Old and New \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Corinthians 5:16-21)

Flesh and the \_\_\_\_\_ (Galatians 5:16-25)

Old and New \_\_\_\_\_ (Colossians 1:13; 2:16-3:11)

Old and New \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 5:12-21)

Old and New \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 6:6; Ephesians 4:22; Colossians 3:9)

## **Lessons for Living**

**We must allow the \_\_\_\_\_ to define and interpret people, their roots and fruits.**

**The Bible in both the Old and New Testaments, clearly teaches that the heart is the source of all that corrupts people.**

**Live in the blessing of the New Covenant having received the Spirit and the Word embedded into your heart.**

**New Covenant ministry is what it is because of the focus on Christ's glory and heart transformation.**

**Learn and memorize these key "New and Old" foundational truths for the sake of your growth and change.**

### **Questions for Discussion**

**What is the root of our behavior (actions and emotions)?**

**What are the two primary causes for our behavior?**

**Do emotions cause behavior? Are they root or fruit?**

**What error is Jesus' teaching on the heart countering?**

**In the New Covenant, what is the primary provision for the heart? What does this consist of?**

**How does the description of a New Covenant ministry affect our understanding of the heart?**

**List the "Old and New" that are foundational for our next studies.**

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# Notes

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## *Visual Models to Clarify Truths*

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*The good steward out of his storehouse breaks forth treasures,  
both old and new*

### **Summary**

Using the example of Jesus' use of illustration to clarify truths and to limit understanding of truths to the spiritually enabled, we develop and use visual models to represent complex Biblical and spiritual realities.

### ***Thinking about Illustrations***

It is important to take a few minutes to understand the purposes, strengths and weaknesses of models.

**Illustrations are intended to \_\_\_\_\_, not be the reality.**

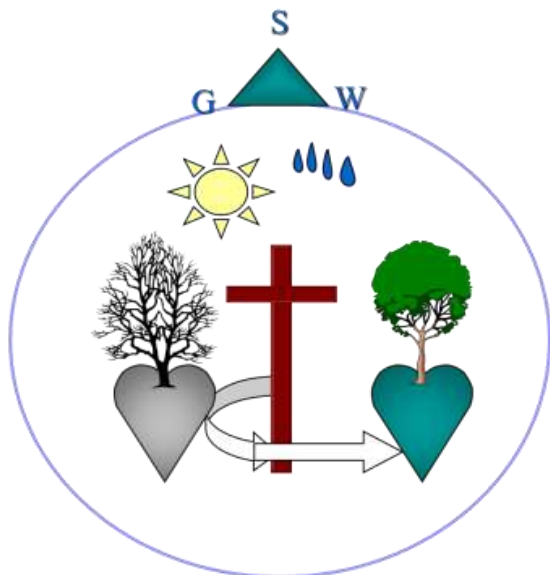
**Illustrations are intended to illustrate, not \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Illustrations can only \_\_\_\_\_ one or two facets of a truth.**

**Illustrations are used by Jesus to \_\_\_\_\_ truths.**

**Illustrations are used by Jesus to \_\_\_\_\_ truths from all but those who are spiritually enabled to see.**

## Three-Tree Model – Jeremiah 17:5-10



### **Triune God**

Sovereign – in control

Good – loving

Wise – knows best

### **Sphere of Circumstances**

Circle – life under God's providence

Heat – Hardships

Dew – Blessings

### **Three Trees**

Thorn Bush – sinful reactions from a bad heart

Fruitful Tree – Godly responses from a Biblical heart

Cross – God's provision in Christ's work

### **Stream**

Stream of God's grace that the Holy Spirit applies to us

Your \_\_\_\_\_

Heat = \_\_\_\_\_, *trials, suffering, effects of sin & curse*

Dew = \_\_\_\_\_, *good things from God's common grace*

The \_\_\_\_\_

Thorn Bush = *Ungodliness, foolishness, fleshly.*

Bad Fruit = \_\_\_\_\_ *behavior:*



***Bad Root = Sinful \_\_\_\_\_:***

***Fruit Tree = Godliness, wisdom, spiritual.***

***Good Fruit = \_\_\_\_\_ behavior:***

***Good Root = Godly \_\_\_\_\_:***

**God and His \_\_\_\_\_**

***Triangle & Circle = Triune \_\_\_\_\_ as sovereign, wise and good (Romans 8:28-30)***

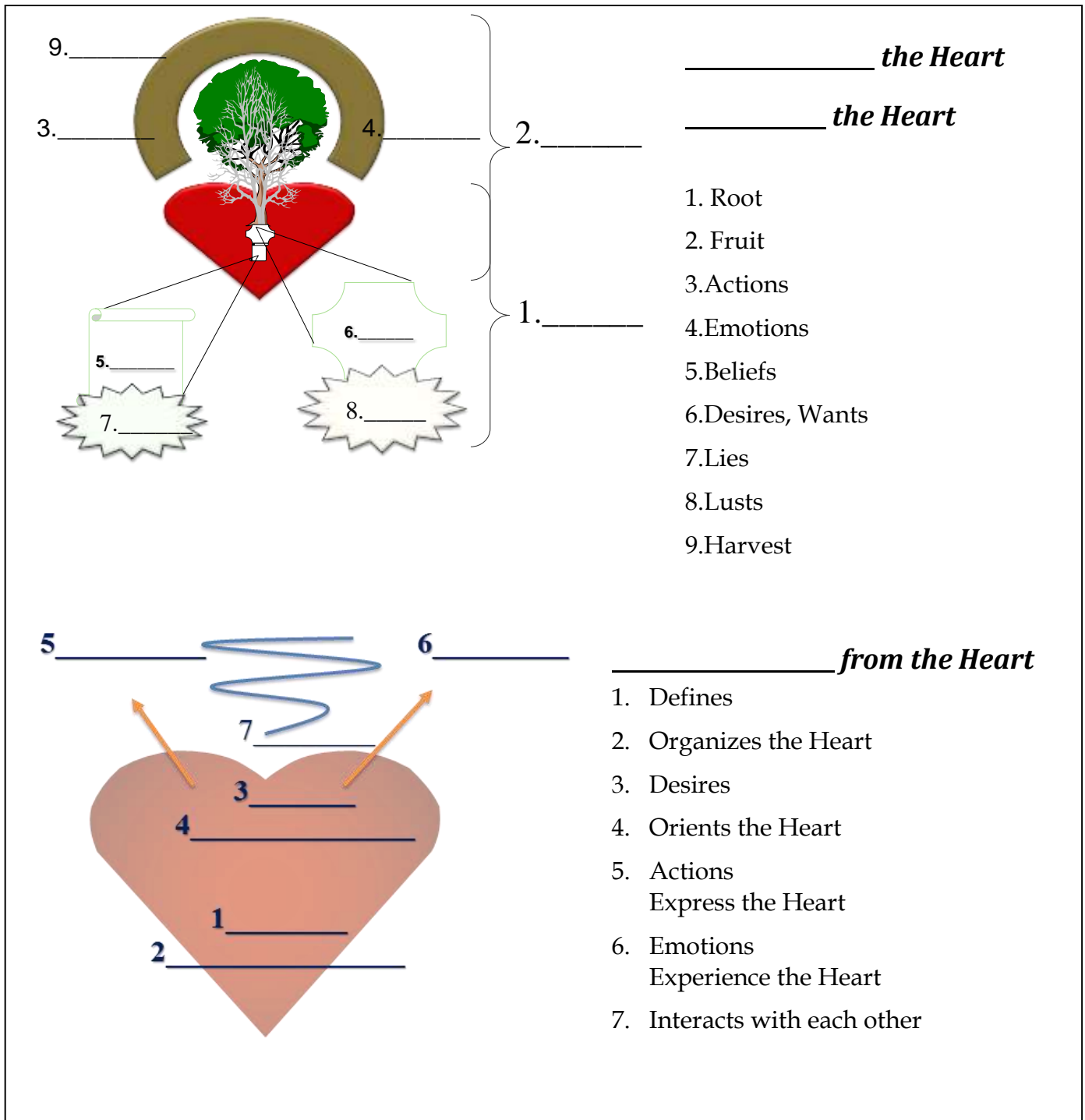
See also Jeremiah 29:11; Genesis 50:20

***Cross = God's \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ***

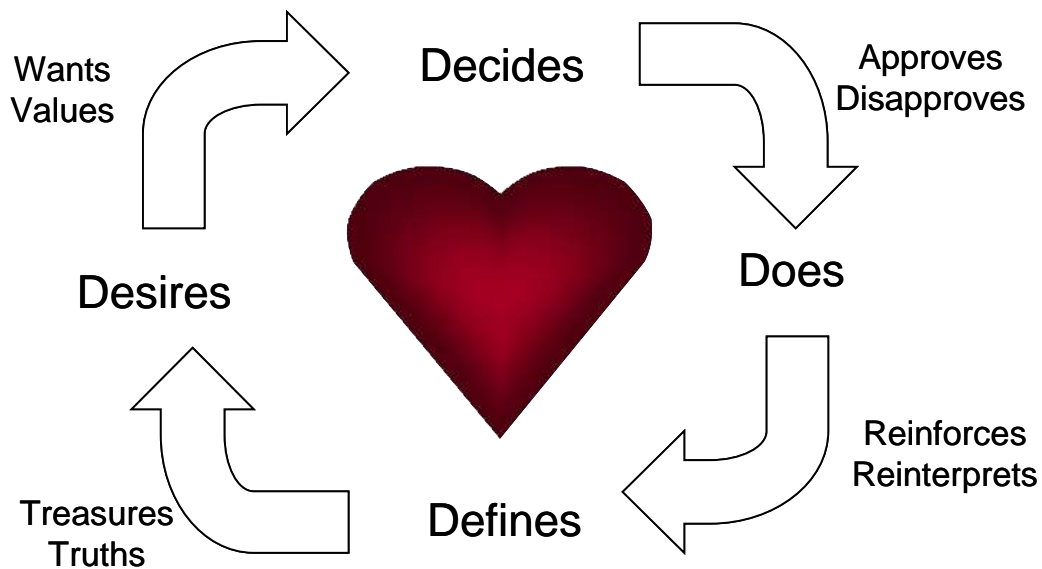
***Stream = The Holy Spirit's \_\_\_\_\_ to you of God's provisions***

## Heart Dynamics Model

All carried about in the heart as \_\_\_\_\_ we experience in our \_\_\_\_\_.



## Heart Flow Model



## **Defines**

*Truths - These are the things we \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_*

*Treasures - These are what we assign \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ to.*

## **Desires**

*Values - These are the \_\_\_\_\_ towards which the soul moves.*

*Wants - These are the \_\_\_\_\_ of the soul towards a valued object.*

## **Decides**

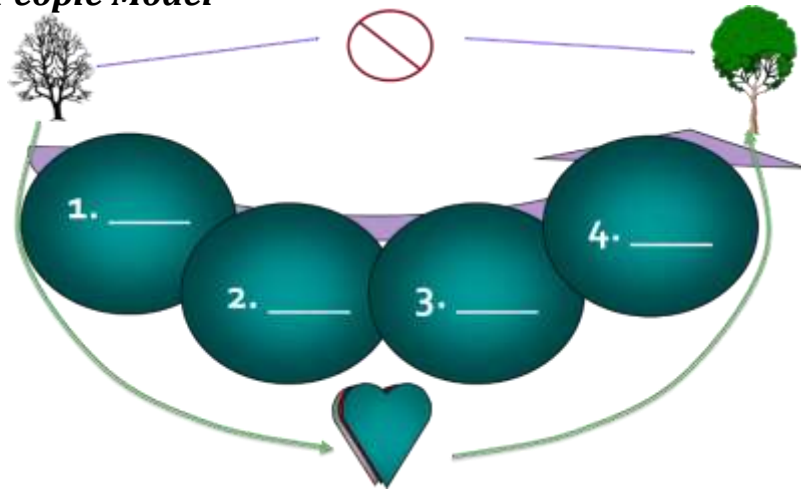
*Approves or Disapproves*

## **Does**

*Reinforces - \_\_\_\_\_ what is defined and desired*

*Reinterprets - \_\_\_\_\_ what is defined and desired*

## Engaging People Model



1.

2.

3.

4.



\_\_\_\_\_ - Welcome

\_\_\_\_\_ - Understand

\_\_\_\_\_ - Confront

\_\_\_ - Action

## **Lessons for Living**

\_\_\_\_\_ *these models as ways to summarize your understanding of yourself and others.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *these models to the particulars of your own way of thinking while keeping them true to the Scripture.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *these models to interpret your own life, to expose your heart, to come to repent of root and fruit issues.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *these models so as to clarify for others your own understanding of the Scriptures.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *these models within the context of your gifts, abilities and opportunities.*

Let the words of my mouth  
and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable in your sight,  
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.  
[ESV]



# Lesson 6

## Heart Circumcision

Colossians 2:6-3:4

*As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.*

### Summary

Being placed into Christ, our inner man, our heart, has been circumcised from the flesh by the Holy Spirit's application of the death and resurrection so that our spiritual inner life is from Christ in heaven on whom we set the gaze of our hearts by faith.

### Deadly Errors in Transformation

The following table observes what Paul is engaged with as error faced by the church.

Several basic errors have always been embraced by God's people, both under the Old and New Covenants with disastrous affects for growth and change, for transformation, for practical heart and behavior holiness. The following table extracts the data from the text. We will explain more as we follow the argument of the text in the rest of the lesson.

### Answering the Errors

Verses	Myth	Truth
8-10	<b>Gnosticism</b> Christ is less than God and not truly human because the flesh, the body is inherently evil so we must transcend the body to be holy.	Christ, as fully human, is God in the flesh in a human body uncorrupted by sin in Himself or His body.
11-17	<b>Legalism</b> One must live by the rules and regulations of the Old Covenant to be holy under the New Covenant.	The work of the cross grants forgiveness, pays the debt and cuts us free from sin and the Old Covenant leaving us liberty in righteousness
18-19	<b>Mysticism</b> One can only be holy by direct access to God through personal revelations by angelic visitations or visions.	Holiness is a result of being in Christ, the head of the body and holding fast to Christ and our identity in Him.
20-23	<b>Asceticism</b> One can be only holy by denying and abusing the body because it is inherently evil.	We live outwardly holy because we have been crucified with Christ so that we live in the body but are not its slaves, but its masters.

### Analyzing the Errors

Notice that every myth makes the following theological error.

*The body/world/flesh is inherently \_\_\_\_\_.*

*The body is the \_\_\_\_\_ of my sin and ungodliness.*

*What Christ has done for us may be \_\_\_\_\_ for our redemption, but not for our transformation.*

*The errors are focused on the \_\_\_\_\_.*

*The errors deny the centrality of \_\_\_\_\_ for our personal and practical holiness.*

***The \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ's Centrality (v.1-7)***

Paul highlights the centrality of Christ for the Christian life and walk.

***In His \_\_\_\_\_ (v.1-3)***

*To grow together in their \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (v.1-2)*

*To affirm together the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (v.3).*

***In His \_\_\_\_\_ (v.4-5)***

*To \_\_\_\_\_ false teaching and intellectual persuasion (v.4)*

*To \_\_\_\_\_ them for holding the line (v.5)*

***In His \_\_\_\_\_ (v.6-8)***

*To walk by \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 6-7)*

*To be on the \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 8)*

The wisdom of God in Christ stands as the Christians treasure, teaching and transforming wisdom. We turn away to the seductive and persuasive systems of human wisdom to our ruin. We will be despoiled of that which is our only hope and help, that we believe, trust, embrace and walk in Christ.

***The \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ's Centrality (v.9-15)***

***Our \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ (v.9-10)***

*All of \_\_\_\_\_ is in Christ bodily*

*All \_\_\_\_\_ are indwelt by God in Christ*



**Our \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ**

**(v.11-12)**

***Its Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_***

***(v.11)***

Before our conversion, our outer man and our inner man were intertwined so that we were sinful in our persons and in our deeds.

When we were saved, the Holy Spirit “circumcised” us; that is, He cut our inner man, our heart away from the flesh/world/old man/the outer man.

***Its Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_***

***(v.12)***

This circumcision is caused by our union with Christ by the Holy Spirit into the death and resurrection of Christ.

**Our \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ (v.13-15)**

*Granted us new life raising us out of spiritual deadness.*

*Forgiven of our trespasses freeing us from guilt.*

*Canceled the debt incurred by the legal demands of the Law.*

*Disarmed spiritual enemies empowering victory over them.*

**The \_\_\_\_\_ from Christ's Centrality (v.16-3:3)**

**Do not try to live by the \_\_\_\_\_. (v.16-19)**

*Do not allow others to \_\_\_\_\_ you (v.16-17)*

*Do not allow others to \_\_\_\_\_ you (v.18-19)*

We must hold fast to Christ from whom all of us receive our nourishment and strength (v.19).

**Do not try to live by \_\_\_\_\_. (v.20-23)**

*Rules living is from the world to which you have \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Rules living is \_\_\_\_\_ against the indulgences of the flesh.*

**Do live by faith in the truths of the \_\_\_\_\_. (3:1-4)**

*\_\_\_\_\_ things above where Christ is (v.1)*

*\_\_\_\_\_ your minds on things above (v.2-3)*

*Patiently \_\_\_\_\_ until Christ comes (v.4)*

## **Lessons for Living**

*Recognize the common \_\_\_\_\_ for Biblical Christian living.*

*Affirm that these common substitutes are \_\_\_\_\_ viable alternatives and are dangerous to our souls.*

*Seek to live the Christian life by \_\_\_\_\_, believing all that the Scriptures tells us is true of Christ and of us in our union to Him.*

*Your inner man, your heart, has been cut free from the flesh, the world, through your union with Christ and your being placed into His death and resurrection.*

*You must respond to these truths through all the imperatives Paul writes – we are actively responding to these truths.*

## **Questions for Discussion**

**What does it mean for Christ to be central?**

**What is heart circumcision?**

**What does it mean?**

**What 3 commandments does Paul give since Christ is central and our hearts are circumcised?**

# Lesson 7

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## *Freed from Sin's Enslaving Power*

**Romans 6**

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But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become *obedient from the heart* to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

### **Summary**

These truths are absolutely essential for people who have a right standing with God -to please and glorify God in every aspect of life - that is, they are growing in grace. The gospel with its saving and sanctifying power causes us by faith to have hope while living in a fallen world. It tells us how, though we are in the presence of sin, we are not subject to its power.

Here are the questions that plague us and are answered here:

***CAN I continue to sin since we are under grace?***

***MUST I continue to sin since we are under grace?***

Here is the \_\_\_\_\_, but not the \_\_\_\_\_ of ongoing sin.

## Issue 1 – Do we continue \_\_\_ sin?

Key motif - \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ - What is true of us (v.1-11)

**Its \_\_\_\_\_ - How it Begins (v.1-3)**

**Its \_\_\_\_\_ - What it Means (v.4-9)**

You were born *in Adam*. You were in the realm or sphere of sin and darkness, occasionally called the flesh. In that realm you had what is called the old self, the person you were as spiritually dead and training yourself in habits of sin. Then, when you were converted/saved, God placed you *in Christ*. You were transferred into the Christ's kingdom and spiritually united to His body through the Spirit. These are the invisible (and admittedly, difficult) spiritual reality. When you were placed into Christ and united to Him, you were joined to His death and resurrection.

***You have physical life here on earth experienced in your body and through your five senses.***

***You have spiritual life in the heavenlies and that spiritual life is hidden in Christ and will be unveiled when He comes.***

***You have been separated through the cross from the old person that you were, the old self.***

***You have a physical body that is living in the presence of sin.***

***The point and purpose is that we may \_\_\_\_\_ in newness of life and not be \_\_\_\_\_ to sin.***

**Its \_\_\_\_\_ - How it Acts (v.10-11)**

These verses then call for us to \_\_\_\_\_ carefully these truths about Christ (v.10) and then \_\_\_\_\_ them to be true for us (v.11).

***You have to know that you have been placed into Christ.***

***You have to know what Christ's death and resurrection mean.***

***You have to know how being placed into Christ and thus His death and resurrection applies to you.***

\_\_\_\_\_ - What is required of us (v.12-14)

***Don't Allow Sin to \_\_\_\_\_*** (v.12)

Do not allow sin to rule you through \_\_\_\_\_.

***Don't Make Yourself \_\_\_\_\_ to Sin*** (v.13-14)

Don't \_\_\_ sin master you because sin \_\_\_\_\_ master you.

***Don't Because You are Under \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_*** (v.14)

***Issue 2 - Must we continue \_\_\_ sin?***

Key motif - \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ - free from law means free to sin? (v.15)

Those under law are under the dominion of sin.

Those under grace are not under the dominion of sin.

\_\_\_\_\_ - who we yield to rules us (v.16-19)

\_\_\_\_\_ - what it creates in our lives (v.20-23)

## **Lessons for Living**

*We have true \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ by being placed in Christ.*

*We may not live as though sin \_\_\_\_\_.*

*We may not live as though sin has \_\_\_\_\_.*

*We have been \_\_\_\_\_ from the old life and are \_\_\_\_\_ for the new life (v.4-11).*

*We have been delivered from the \_\_\_\_\_ of the law to the freedom and power of \_\_\_\_\_ (v.14ff).*

*We must not \_\_\_ sin master us because sin \_\_\_\_\_ to master us (v.13-14).*

*We must \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_, having been freed from sin and become God's slaves (v.17-18).*

*We must \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves to God for His use, rather than presenting ourselves to sin for its use.*

*We must understand that we may not live as though sin were not \_\_\_\_\_ and transformation were not \_\_\_\_\_.*



## **Discussion Questions**

**What sphere or realm were we in before our salvation?**

**What controlled us before our salvation?**

**What did the death and resurrection of Christ do for us according to Romans 6?**

**What are our responsibilities in the light of our death to sin?**

**Who will control us?**

**How does sin try to control us?**



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## *Released from Law's Ineffective Realm*

**Romans 7**

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*Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

### **Summary**

The summary of the argument is laid out (v.5-6). Notice how each of the phrases corresponds to Romans 6 - 8.

For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. = Romans 6

But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve not under the old written code = Romans 7

but in the new life of the Spirit = Romans 8

**Our \_\_\_\_\_ from the Law (v.1-6)**

The Law is treated as a sphere of authority and power which we have been delivered from.

**Its Clarifying \_\_\_\_\_ (v.1-3)**

Paul poses a question based on a \_\_\_\_\_ principle.

This is a carefully crafted illustration.

**Its Careful \_\_\_\_\_ (v.4-6)**

Upon the death of another, the Lord Jesus Christ, we have been released from the authority sphere of the Law.

Our release from the Law is a redemptive-historical reality that impacts us personally and individually.

This perspective prepares us to expect an \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ experience of its reality.

**The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Law (v.7-13)**

Verses 7-12 argue that though the Law is holy and its content just and good, it is bent by the power of sin to arouse wants and passions leading to evil deeds resulting in the judgment of death.

**In its \_\_\_\_\_ (v.7)**

To \_\_\_\_\_ us what sin is...

**In its \_\_\_\_\_ (v.8-11)**

Sin uses the law *to stir up evil* \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ resulting in the judgment of death

Paul clearly sees sin as an \_\_\_\_\_, a power whose affects can be felt and described.

So, verses 8-11 describe the \_\_\_\_\_ power of sin in the presence of people trying to live by law.

**In its \_\_\_\_\_ (v.12)**

\_\_\_\_\_ is the problem, not the law.

We are released from the Law, not because it is sinful, wrong or evil, but because it only \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_ our sinfulness.

**Our \_\_\_\_\_ under the Law (v.13-25)**

In its \_\_\_\_\_

(v.13)

What is the cause of our futility under the Law?

We know how \_\_\_\_\_ sin is because it is so perverted and so powerful that it \_\_\_\_\_ the Law the way it does.

With its \_\_\_\_\_

(v.14-20)

The conflict is the great conflict between that which is \_\_\_\_\_ and that which is \_\_\_\_\_.

We are decisively delivered from the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin while we live in the \_\_\_\_\_ of fallenness.

Notice the repetition of the word "\_\_\_\_\_".

Notice also the repetition of the word "\_\_\_\_\_".

Paul is not saying that since this is our \_\_\_\_\_ we are then no longer \_\_\_\_\_.

In its \_\_\_\_\_

(v.21-25)

*He observes the presence of conflicting \_\_\_\_\_ of authority and law (v.21-23).*

*He observes the terrible \_\_\_\_\_ we are in if we try to live by the Law (v.24)*

*He responds by pointing us to Jesus Christ, our Lord (v.25).*

## **Lessons for Living**

*Not \_\_\_\_\_ and not \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_ by the Spirit*

*Hughes' 4 Pillars of Romans 7- (Kent Hughes, Romans)*

*First Pillar: Our marriage to the Law has been broken by our death and resurrection in Christ. The Law has no more power over us.*

*Second Pillar: The Law is good, for it reveals to us the righteous demands of God. It reveals the utter pervasiveness of sin. To the believer this is grace.*

*Third Pillar: When a believer tries to live a life that is pleasing to God in his own strength, he will fail every time.*

*Fourth Pillar: That very failure makes him ready for God's grace.*

*God has granted us victory over sin but we are groaning in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ until the day Jesus comes.*

### **Questions for Discussion**

What does it mean not to be “under the Law” according to Romans 7?

Since we are not under the Law but under grace, what does that mean for Christian living?

How does sin twist the Law?

What will be the effect if we try to live under the Law?

What is the connection between not in sin (Romans 6) and not under Law (Romans 7)?

What is Paul’s struggle in Romans 7?

# Lesson 9

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## *Freed to Walk in the Spirit as Sons*

**Romans 8**

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*Every person who belongs to Christ has been transferred into this new domain in which the Spirit rather than the flesh rules. The present possession of life by the Spirit will lead to the enjoyment of physical life through the resurrection of the body. This will be accomplished through the power of the Spirit, who now indwells us and empowers us through trial, trouble and suffering. (Adapted from D.A. Carson)*

### **Summary**

“There is no reason why those who are in Christ Jesus should go on doing penal servitude as though they had never been pardoned and liberated from the prison house of sin.” (F.F. Bruce) Romans 8 shows us how we live in the freedom and power of God’s Spirit while yet groaning and suffering. While we walk in the Spirit, we do so in the world until the Lord comes.

**The \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s Spirit (v.1-17)**

Godly living begins with the truth that there is no condemnation for us (v.1) and ends with our personal testimony that there is no one to condemn us (v.34).

**To \_\_\_\_\_ us by God’s Righteousness (v.1-8)**

**Because of \_\_\_\_\_ (v.1-4).**

**Through \_\_\_\_\_ (v.5-8).**

Here is the primary function of the Spirit in practical terms of changing us: He gives us a new mindset that transforms us. Notice, those who mind the flesh, live according to the flesh, are hostile to God, do not and cannot submit to God’s law, do not please God and all this is death, God’s judgment.

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<sup>1</sup> James Luther Mays, *Harper's Bible Commentary* (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1996, c1988).

**To \_\_\_\_\_ us as God's Life (v.9-13)**

The present possession of spiritual life in dying and mortal bodies anticipates the possession of spiritual life in a living and glorified body at the resurrection.

“Here we are called by faithfulness to the Scriptures to hold in tension two clear truths: that the indwelling of the Spirit infallibly secures eternal life, and that a lifestyle empowered by and patterned after God's Spirit is necessary to inherit eternal life. The Spirit is given to empower our activity in righteousness.” (Carson, *NBC*).

**To \_\_\_\_\_ us as God's Sons (v.14-17)**

*His work affecting us in the \_\_\_\_\_.*

*His work aiming us toward the \_\_\_\_\_.*

**The \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Children (v.18-30)**

We are now experiencing present suffering while longing for a future glory. What we have here is groaning and glory. There is groaning and glory for creation, in the Christian, by the Spirit for our good and God's glory.

**Its \_\_\_\_\_ in the Creation (v.18-22)**

The creation is now subject to the curse because of the fallenness of man.

**Its \_\_\_\_\_ in Ourselves (v.23-25)**

We share in creation's groaning and hope.

Most errors concerning the \_\_\_\_\_ or the \_\_\_\_\_ Christian life flow from not understanding verses 23-25. You are delivered, but not yet. You are adopted, but not yet. You have the Spirit, but not fully. You groan now in suffering and struggling because there is a splendor of glory to come.

**Its \_\_\_\_\_ by the Spirit (v.26-27)**

**Its \_\_\_\_\_ due to God (v.28-30)**

In the midst of groaning, in the midst of struggling with sin while walking in the Spirit, we know that God is at work in all our situations to transform and conform us into the likeness of Christ.

We lean towards the glory to come in the present experience of groaning now because God is at work to mold us to be like Christ.

**The \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Love (v.31-39)**



We are now inseparable from God's love while experiencing no condemnation and becoming more than conquerors.

**In our \_\_\_\_\_ (v.31-36)**

We are gloriously sure of God's love because there is no condemnation.

We will have an ever greater experience of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of God's love *in the midst of all the groaning circumstances outlined here.*

**In our \_\_\_\_\_ (v.37-39)**

We are gloriously sure of God's love because we more than \_\_\_\_\_.

Here is our conviction and our \_\_\_\_\_ - we are more than conquerors - over sin, law and self.

## **Lessons for Living**

*Christians are to walk with God as sons.*

*We have been given the Holy Spirit to apply in our lives what Christ has done for us on the cross.*

*We must live by faith believing what God has said is true, even when it feels like or it seems like it is not true.*

*God is at work in every thing that is happening to His children to conform them to the image of Christ.*

*Though we may go through much suffering as we walk with God, God's love for us is eternal and unchanging. No suffering can actually separate us from God's love.*

## Questions for Discussion

Are we supposed to live in the struggle of Romans 7:14-21? Explain.

How are we to overcome the remaining affects of sin in us and us in sin?

Romans 8 shows us that we no longer should primarily be struggling with \_\_\_\_\_ under the \_\_\_\_\_ but with groaning in \_\_\_\_\_.

Summarize the flow of Romans 6-8.

# Lesson 10

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## *Case Study: Struggling with Fear*

**Acts 18:1-17**

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*And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God*

### **Summary**

In the midst of debilitating fear, God confronts His servant, challenging him to stop being afraid, promising His presence and motivating ongoing strategic ministry.

**Problem - The \_\_\_\_\_ that Threaten**

**Precept - The \_\_\_\_\_ that Moves**

Move into your fear and into the very danger that confronts and conflicts you

**Promise - The \_\_\_\_\_ that Assures**

**Purpose - The \_\_\_\_\_ that Motivates**

There are elect in the city who will be saved

The preaching of the gospel is necessary for them to be saved

**Product - The \_\_\_\_\_ that Result**

# Lesson 11

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## *Case Study: Mid-Life Failure*

**2 Samuel 11-12**

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*<sup>1</sup> In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.*

### **Summary**

In the midst of self-serving ease, a great saint sins with long term consequence and public failure, repentance and instruction.

***Data – What are the facts of the story?***

***Diagnosis – What has gone wrong?***

**The Thorn-Bush of His Behavior**

***What did he do?***

***How did he respond?***

## **The Circle of God's Providences**

*What are the blessings?*

*What are the hardships?*

## **The Heart as the Root**

*What does he appear to want?*

*What does he appear to believe?*

**What are God's provisions for him?**

*In the midst of the situation itself...*

*In the consequences of his choices...*

*In the preacher/prophet God sent...*



**What did repentance in David's life look like?**

*How does he respond to confrontation?*

*What evidences do we have of genuine repentance?*

*How did God chasten him? Why did he choose what he chose?*

*How did he respond to the consequences of his sin?*

## **Questions for Discussion**

### **2 Samuel 11:**

What does David's sin with Bathsheba teach us about the subtle nature of temptation?

What does David's sin with Bathsheba teach us about how quickly one sin leads to other sins?

### **Psalms 51:**

How should we reflect upon our own sin as we repent?

What does a contrite and humbled heart look like during the process of repentance?

### **I Corinthians 10:13:**

What role does "right-thinking" play in true heart change?

# Lesson 12

## *A Repentant Heart*

**Psalms 51 and 32**

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*Create in me a clean heart, O God.*

### **Summary**

The truly repentant heart understands its sin, its sinfulness and comes to the Lord for mercy, forgiveness, cleansing and change.

#### Reflection on David's Sin

How he committed adultery, murder and a major attempt at cover up.

How God granted the grace of guilt and repentance through the prophet, Nathan.

We have two major texts that are David's reflection on his own sin.

### **The Penitent Saint - Psalm 51**

How does the structure of the Psalm help us with understanding the nature of genuine repentance?

#### ***Plea for Mercy***

**(v. 1-2)**

<sup>1</sup> *Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.*

<sup>2</sup> *Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin!*

God's mercy needed

My sins are many

#### ***Agreement with Truth***

**(v. 3-6)**

<sup>3</sup> *For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.*

<sup>4</sup> *Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you may be justified in your words  
and blameless in your judgment.*

<sup>5</sup> *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

<sup>6</sup> Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,  
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

Who I have sinned against – its upward dimension

Why I have sinned – its inward dimension

### ***Plea for Cleansing***

**(v. 7-12)**

Three sets that reflect one another...

<sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.

<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup> Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

#### ***Cleanse me***

Bring back the glad joy

#### ***Forgive me***

Bring back the right spirit (attitude)

#### ***Return me***

Bring back the joy of salvation

### ***Affirmation of Responsibility***

**(v. 13)**

<sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.

I will teach...

This will lead us to Psalm 32 where that instruction takes place

### ***Plea for Pardon***

**(v. 14-15)**

<sup>14</sup> Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,  
O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.

<sup>15</sup> O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.

Deliver from judicial punishment – now we plead the cross of Christ!

I will sing...

### ***Affirmation of Humiliation***

**(v. 16-17)**

<sup>16</sup> *For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;  
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.*

<sup>17</sup> *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

Not sacrifices...

But a contrite and humbled heart...

### ***Closing Prayer***

**(v. 18-19)**

<sup>18</sup> *Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;  
build up the walls of Jerusalem;*

<sup>19</sup> *then will you delight in right sacrifices,  
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;  
then bulls will be offered on your altar.*

May God do good for His people

May God delight in His people

## **The Instructing Saint – Psalm 32**

Here is the blessedness of forgiveness...

Here is David instructing the people of God...

### ***In our Experience***

**(v. 1-4)**

<sup>1</sup> *Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.*

<sup>2</sup> *Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.*

<sup>3</sup> *For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.*

<sup>4</sup> *For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah*

#### ***Its Present Joy***

Of being forgiven

Of being justified

#### ***Its Past Pain***

The grace of guilt

The pressure of conviction

## ***In our Poise***

**(v. 5)**

Follow the parallelism...

<sup>5</sup> *I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not cover my iniquity;  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"  
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah*

What should we be inclined to do?

### ***To Recognize our Sin***

Are we more ready to defend our sin than to acknowledge it?

### ***To Confess our Sin***

A we quick to confess our sins?

## ***In our Refuge***

**(v. 6-7)**

An exhortation to God's people...

<sup>6</sup> *Therefore let everyone who is godly  
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;  
surely in the rush of great waters,  
they shall not reach him.*

<sup>7</sup> *You are a hiding place for me;  
you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance. Selah*

### ***Prayer – We go to Him***

While you can!

### ***Protection – He is to us***

A great stronghold!

## ***In our Responsibilities***

**(v. 8-11)**

How will we respond to other sufferers?

<sup>8</sup> *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.*

<sup>9</sup> *Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,  
which must be curbed with bit and bridle,  
or it will not stay near you.*

<sup>10</sup> *Many are the sorrows of the wicked,  
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.*

*<sup>11</sup> Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,  
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!*

***To Teach***

In the way to go

***To Counsel***

With close attention

***To Observe***

To see in such a way that we evaluate or interpret

***To Praise***

Forgiven people experience and express joy

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## **Reflecting on a Repentant Heart**

Humility is a mark of the repentant heart...

A repentant heart makes a full acknowledgement of sin...

A repentant heart seeks God's forgiveness and cleansing...

A repentant heart will willing to listen before speaking...

A repentant heart is willing to speak to God's people:

    About the dangers of sin...

    About the mercies of God...

    About the forgiveness God grants...

    About the loss and restoration of joy...

    About the greatness of fellowship with God and His people...

A repentant heart delights God.

## **Questions for Discussion**



# Lesson 13

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## Case Study: Student Provided

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

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*<sup>11</sup> Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. <sup>12</sup> Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. <sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*

### **Summary**

Since we share a common lot with people in the Bible and people in our world, there is a value in listening and learning through hearing and helping with past failures.

### ***Situation – What happened?***

**Who is involved**

**What happened**

### ***Response – What did they do and feel?***

**What did they do in response?**

**What did they say?**

**What emotions were they experiencing?**

### ***Heart - What were they thinking?***

**What did they want/crave?**

**What did they believe/doubt?**

***Scripture – What does the Bible say?***

**That relate similar situations?**

**That interpret what is going on?**

*That give voice to the experience of the issue.*

*That establish a Biblical category for the issue.*

*That explain the sin or folly of the issue.*

**That exposes or explains the root?**

*In what is wanted/craved/served?*

*In what is believed/doubted/thought?*

**That calls for change?**

*What must be put-off?*

*What thinking must be changed?*

*What must be put on?*

***Change - how will this person grow and change?***

**What needs to be confessed?**

***To God?***

***To Others?***

**What needs to be embraced?**

***In natural consequences?***

***In God's chastening?***

**What needs to be avoided?**

***In what ways was the person tempted?***

***In what ways was sin provided for?***

**What needs to be reinforced?**

***What does the person need to learn and memorize?***

***What does the person need to strengthen?***

***Where does the person need to submit?***



# Lesson 14

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## *Hardness of Heart* **Not tender towards God or people**

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*Circumcise the foreskin of your heart and be no longer stubborn*

### **Summary**

Regular exposure to sin develops calluses over our hearts that inhibits a hearing and changing heart.

### **Analysis**

While reading the following texts, listen for answers to the following questions.

**What characterizes a hard heart?**

**What are the dangers of a hard heart?**

**What is another term used by these texts for a hard heart?**

**What is significant about that term?**

**Who can have a hard heart?**

**How is a hard heart dealt with by God?**

**What should we do about a hard heart?**

**What should we cultivate instead of a hard heart?**

## The Texts

### Ezekiel 3:4–11 (ESV)

<sup>4</sup> And he said to me, “Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with my words to them. <sup>5</sup> For you are not sent to a people of foreign speech and a hard language, but to the house of Israel— <sup>6</sup> not to many peoples of foreign speech and a hard language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, if I sent you to such, they would listen to you. <sup>7</sup> But the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, for they are not willing to listen to me: because **all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart.** <sup>8</sup> Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces, and your forehead as hard as their foreheads. <sup>9</sup> Like emery harder than flint have I made your forehead. Fear them not, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house.” <sup>10</sup> Moreover, he said to me, “Son of man, all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart, and hear with your ears. <sup>11</sup> And go to the exiles, to your people, and speak to them and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God,’ whether they hear or refuse to hear.”

### Zechariah 7:8–14 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> And the word of the Lord came to Zechariah, saying, <sup>9</sup> “Thus says the Lord of hosts, Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another, <sup>10</sup> do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart.” <sup>11</sup> But they refused to pay attention and turned a stubborn shoulder and stopped their ears that they might not hear. <sup>12</sup> **They made their hearts diamond-hard lest they should hear the law and the words that the Lord of hosts had sent by his Spirit through the former prophets.** Therefore great anger came from the Lord of hosts. <sup>13</sup> “As I called, and they would not hear, so they called, and I would not hear,” says the Lord of hosts, <sup>14</sup> “and I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations that they had not known. Thus the land they left was desolate, so that no one went to and fro, and the pleasant land was made desolate.”

### Matthew 19:7–9 (ESV)

<sup>7</sup> They said to him, “Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?” <sup>8</sup> He said to them, “Because of **your hardness of heart** Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. <sup>9</sup> And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.”

### Romans 2:1–5 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. <sup>2</sup> We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. <sup>3</sup> Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? <sup>4</sup> Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? <sup>5</sup> But **because of your hard**

**and impenitent heart** you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

### **Ephesians 4:17–24 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. <sup>18</sup> They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of **the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart**. <sup>19</sup> They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. <sup>20</sup> But that is not the way you learned Christ!— <sup>21</sup> assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, <sup>22</sup> to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, <sup>23</sup> and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

### **Deuteronomy 10:12–18 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> “And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, <sup>13</sup> and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good? <sup>14</sup> Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it. <sup>15</sup> Yet the Lord set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day. <sup>16</sup> Circumcise therefore **the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn**. <sup>17</sup> For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. <sup>18</sup> He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.

### **Isaiah 46:12–13 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> “**Listen to me, you stubborn of heart**, you who are far from righteousness: <sup>13</sup> I bring near my righteousness; it is not far off, and my salvation will not delay; I will put salvation in Zion, for Israel my glory.”

### **Jeremiah 5:22–25 (ESV)**

<sup>22</sup> Do you not fear me? declares the Lord. Do you not tremble before me? I placed the sand as the boundary for the sea, a perpetual barrier that it cannot pass; though the waves toss, they cannot prevail; though they roar, they cannot pass over it. <sup>23</sup> But this people has **a stubborn and rebellious heart**; they have turned aside and gone away. <sup>24</sup> They do not say in their hearts, ‘Let us fear the Lord our God, who gives the rain in its season, the autumn rain and the spring rain, and keeps for us the weeks appointed for the harvest.’ <sup>25</sup> Your iniquities have turned these away, and your sins have kept good from you.

### **Jeremiah 9:12-116 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> Who is the man so wise that he can understand this? To whom has the mouth of the Lord spoken, that he may declare it? Why is the land ruined and laid waste like a wilderness, so that no one passes through? <sup>13</sup> And the Lord says: "Because they have forsaken my law that I set before them, and **have not obeyed my voice or walked in accord with it,** <sup>14</sup> but have **stubbornly followed their own hearts** and have gone after the Baals, as their fathers taught them. <sup>15</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will feed this people with bitter food, and give them poisonous water to drink. <sup>16</sup> I will scatter them among the nations whom neither they nor their fathers have known, and I will send the sword after them, until I have consumed them."

### **Jeremiah 11:6–8 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> And the Lord said to me, "Proclaim all these words in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem: Hear the words of this covenant and do them. <sup>7</sup> For I solemnly warned your fathers when I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, warning them persistently, even to this day, saying, Obey my voice. <sup>8</sup> Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but **everyone walked in the stubbornness of his evil heart.** Therefore I brought upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do, but they did not."

### **Mark 3:1–6 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. <sup>2</sup> And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. <sup>3</sup> And he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come here." <sup>4</sup> And he said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. <sup>5</sup> **And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart,** and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. <sup>6</sup> The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

### **Mark 16:14–18 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and **he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen.** <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. <sup>16</sup> Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

### **2 Chronicles 34:26–28 (ESV)**

<sup>26</sup> But to the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the Lord, thus shall you say to him, Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Regarding the words that you have heard, <sup>27</sup> because **your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before God when you heard his words** against this place and its inhabitants, and you have humbled yourself before me and have torn your clothes and wept before me, I also have heard you, declares the Lord. <sup>28</sup> Behold, I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace, and your eyes shall not see all the disaster that I will bring upon this place and its inhabitants.' " And they brought back word to the king.



## **1 Peter 3:8-9 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, ***a tender heart***, and a humble mind. <sup>9</sup> Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

### ***Lessons:***



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## *Series Summary*

- All people live out of their hearts, their inner person.
- The heart's primary functions are believing and desiring with vulnerabilities to lies and lusts.
- God is bringing about situations to give us opportunities to obey Him from the heart.
- God is using situations to expose what is in our hearts through our actions and emotions.
- Because we are born sinners, our hearts are deceitful and difficult to penetrate. But God has provided His Word and Spirit to discern them.
- When we were converted, our hearts were circumcised by the Spirit, cut away from the flesh.
- When we were converted, we were placed into the death and resurrection of Christ, so that sin through the flesh no longer controls us.
- Though we have been raised with Christ spiritually, we still live in our earthly bodies of flesh and in the fallen world of the flesh. Through the flesh, our hearts are tempted to sin.
- We must live by faith that what God tells us and what God promises us is true.
- Because sin is not our master, we must not yield our bodies to sin so that it does master us but rather yield our bodies to God who is our master.
- We must not resort to living by the Law which is weakened by the flesh and sin so that it cannot produce obedience.
- We must walk in the Spirit, set our minds on the things of God so that we do not walk in the flesh and set our minds on the things of this world.
- Having been justified by God, we walk with God in a relationship as His sons seeking to please Him in all ways.



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## *Class Review*

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