

“Diligence” (Proverbs 8:17)

“I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently will find me”

1. # Integrity
2. # Faithfulness

God looks on the heart 1 Sam 16: 7 ; Isaiah 29: 13

I. What is a Diligent Heart?

Dict. *constant & earnest effort persistent application & endeavor, industry ...*

OT: *carefully, with speed, watchfulness, industriously* NT: *endeavor; earnestly*

Ezra 6:12; Deut 4:9; 6:17; Ps 77:6; Prov 10:4; Rom 12:11 Eph 4:3; Heb 4:11

Old English word: diligo- to value or esteem or to love

II. What is the Very Life Blood or Heartbeat of Diligence? Love.

“I love those who love me”

- Our hearts by nature are evil & hard (Jer 17:9,10; Rom 3:11,12,18)
- God commanded Israel to worship God with all their hearts (Deut 6:4)
- God knew that such worship requires a new heart (Deut 30:6; Ezek 36)
- In Christ – through His Holy Spirit we receive new hearts (Rom 8:15)
- Holy Spirit: Spirit of adoption *shedding God’s love in our hearts* (Rom 5:4)

III. What Does Diligence Really Express & what is its Reward?

- If we do not have love we have nothing (1 Cor 13:1-4)
- Paul tells us *whether we eat or drink... do all to the glory of God* (1 Cor 10:31)
- Diligence: expresses true worship from love to God in seeking God