



## Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

People tend to be careless, or foolish, with their hearts. We can either give our hearts to the wrong things or fail to guide or guard our hearts at all – in either case, we are sure to reap the consequences of not having a right heart before God. Over the last couple weeks, we've examined J.C. Ryle's "Seven Marks of a Right Heart Before God" (from his book, *Old Paths*). As you finish this list, let me again encourage you to prayerfully examine your heart in light of Scripture, using these Biblical references as the foundation of your study.

- 1) **A right heart is a new heart.**
- 2) **A right heart is a broken and contrite heart.**
- 3) **A right heart is a heart which believes on Christ alone for salvation, and in which Christ dwells by faith.**
- 4) **A right heart is a purified heart.**
- 5) **A right heart is a praying heart.**
- 6) **A right heart is a heart that feels conflict within it** (Gal. 5:17). It finds within itself two opposing principles contending for the mastery – the flesh lusting against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh. It knows by experience what Paul means when he says, "*I see a law in my members warring against the law of my mind*" (Rom.7:23). The wrong heart knows nothing of this strife. The strong man keeps the wrong heart as their palace, and their goods are at peace (Lk.11:21). But when the rightful King takes possession of the heart, a struggle begins which never ends until death. The right heart may be known by its warfare, quite as much as by its peace.
- 7) **A right heart is honest, undivided, and true** (Lk.8:15; 1Chron.12:33; Heb.10:22). There is nothing about it of falsehood, hypocrisy, or image-acting. It is not double or divided. It really is what it professes to be, feels what it professes to feel, and believes what it professes to believe. Its faith may be feeble. Its obedience may be very imperfect. But one thing will always distinguish the right heart. Its religion will be real, genuine, thorough, and sincere.

Scripture reveals that a heart not right with God is defiled, hardened, rebellious, deceived, foolish, divided and/or carnal. Those who truly belong to God have a heart for God, a heart that has been renewed and redeemed by God (see Ezek.36:25-27). And those who truly have a heart for God, will seek to live in such a way that pleases and praises Him. Jesus said, "*For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. 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*" (Lk.6:43-45; cf. 2Tim.2:22).

May our hearts always be filled with and guided by God, for His glory and our good.

Together in and for Christ,  
Pastor David  
(7/21/25)

**Scripture Readings for the Week** (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #29):

*Leviticus 16-18; 2 Kings 11-15; Psalm 84-86; Proverbs 11-12; Ezekiel 31-36; Luke 21-22; Colossians 3-4*

**Recommended Reading:**

*"Surrender: The Heart that God Controls" by Nancy Leigh DeMoss*