



# CBS



...Transforming lives, impacting the nations

## COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2010.

7:00PM

STUDY OUTLINE #030

**Text: Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 15: 1-20**

**Theme: Guarding your heart, for Issues of life 2**

**Words in marble: we are what our heart is**

In the previous study, the **heart** was defined as the hub, core or the innermost part of a thing. It is the seat, or home of our moral being, our intellect, our emotions and our will. Simply put, our heart is who we are with great potentials which can be harnessed for good or evil in the society. Ultimately our hearts are measured on the scales of God. **Isaiah 29: 13-15; 1 Chronicles 28:9; Proverbs 19:21.**

The word Guard also means an act or duty of protecting or defending.

### 1. Parameters

The big question is, why are we guarding our heart? With all the capabilities of the heart to reflect the DNA of its maker, what prompted God's verdict in Jeremiah 17:9-10? Why does the heart have varying behavioural patterns? If God is good and all He created was good, how did the heart become infested and what is our hope? Genesis 1:31. We need answers to all these questions.

### 2. Why guarding?

- The heart is like a factory. It receives raw materials (inputs)...thoughts, sights, words, indulgences, clever or smart acts and in turn processes and churns them out in fuller measures. Galatians 6: 7-8
- In other words, the heart is under siege of negative influences or forces which impact and programme it, wrongly defining our personality.

### 3. Fundamental questions

How was the heart corrupted, infested or polluted in the first stance? Mark 7:1-23.

Did God create us with a corrupt and perverted heart? Why then are there imperfections in His Creation?

### 4. From the beginning

There is no unrighteousness with God. He is faithful, true and upright. He has also passed the same traits to every creature. Psalm 19:7-14; Job 34:10; Deut 32:4; Psalm 92:15; James 1: 17, Genesis 1: 31.

### 5. Entrance of iniquity (sin) and fall of man

Iniquity is exercising one's will in opposition to God and is sourced from the Devil/ Lucifer. Isaiah 14: 11-17; Ezekiel 28: 1-19.

When Adam was infested, as a free moral agent in the Garden of Eden, all descendants of the human race were also polluted. Genesis 3; Romans 5: 12-21. Romans 3: 23; Psalm 51.

### 6. What were the strategies used by the enemy for the fall of man? Genesis 3: 1-8

The Devil played out 1 John 2: 15-16. The same trick that he pulled on Jesus in Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-14. He still uses the same on us today. Lucifer was proud, he lusted for God's glory and was cast down. He eventually enticed man into doubting God, leading him eventually to fail in the first test of obedience as a free moral agent. However with the advantage of redemption, we can overcome the wiles of the enemy.

## **GUARDING YOUR HEART, FOR ISSUES OF LIFE 2** *(Continued)*

### **7. Consequences of the fall on man**

- His thought patterns were continually evil and perverse....Genesis 6:5; Mark 7:5-23; Ecclesiastes 8:11.
- He ventured into schemes and debased inventions. Ecclesiastes 7: 29
- The polluted heart of man gave glory to other things rather than to God. Lamentations 5: 16; Romans 1: 16-32. **See the life of Nebuchadnezzar.** Daniel 4.
- A deliberate ignorance of the maker was practised and other things were held as priorities instead of God -Isaiah 1: 1-4; Jeremiah 2: 13

In the final analysis, the helpless man became prisoner to heart-pollutant, sin and developed different behavioural patterns and habits. He had a heart that was hard, cruel, stony, deceived etc, **Hebrew 3; Search and name the various hearts mentioned in the scriptures, does any of them reflect you.**

### **8. Redemption Package**

Only God can cleanse our heart...Jeremiah 24: 7; Proverbs 21: 1. This was firmly executed in the substitutionary sacrifice on Calvary. Hebrew 9:11-28, Romans 5; 1 John 3:1-10, Hebrew 4: 12

#### **Question**

Are you living out your dream and desired life portrait? What type of fruits are you producing? Matthew 12: 34-35. For a believer, it is only a heart that is drawn to and dependent on God that He can really work on to fulfil His purpose, Jeremiah 24: 7, Ezekiel 36: 22-31.

There is a passionate plea from God to believers and unbelievers alike to...*turn to me, Receive a new heart (new personality) and live, Ezekiel 18:29-31, James 4: 5-10.* Without any doubt, there is hope for us.

**Prayer:** Lord, search me and dislodge every form of wickedness in me and constantly lead me to the path of righteousness. Psalm 139: 23-24.