

"HEART- FELT RELIGION"

Matt 15:10-20; 22:37

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Do you believe in "heart-felt" religion? Think before you answer this question.
- B. There is much confusion and discussion of heart-felt religion and many have the idea that Christians do not believe in such
- C. Some believe the heart mentioned in the Bible is the physical heart and some passages do mention the fleshly blood pump: 2Sam 18:14; 2Ki 9:24; but most passages have the spiritual heart under consideration
- D. **(TITLE)** The religion authorized by the Lord is a religion that involves all the heart Matt 22:37

DISCUSSION:

I. WHAT IS THE BIBLE HEART?

- A. Thayer defines the word "heart" (*kardia*) as "the center and seat of spiritual life, the soul or mind, as it is the foundation and seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, endeavors" (page 325)
- B. We can learn what the Bible heart is by looking at some verses that tell what the heart does or what the heart is composed of
 1. The heart has INTELLECT: it thinks, Matt 9:4; understands Matt 13:15; reasons Mk 2:8; believes Rom 10:10
 2. The heart has a WILL Ex 35:5: it determines or decrees 1Cor 7:37; intends Heb 4:12; purposes 2Cor 9:7; obeys Rom 6:17
 3. The heart has EMOTIONS: it despises 2Sam 6:16; desires Rom 10:1; Loves Matt 22:37; trusts Prov 3:5; sorrows Jhn 16:6; rejoices Acts 2:26
 4. The heart has a CONSCIENCE: it will condemn or not condemn 1Jhn 3:20,21
 5. The heart can devise, be troubled, be broken, rebel and revolt, can sing, meditate, and doubt

II. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BIBLE HEART

- A. Note these particular characteristics
 1. Deceived Jas 1:26; haughty Prov 18:12; hardened Heb 4:7; wicked and deceitful Jer 17:9; rebellious; Jer 5:23; evil Heb 3:12
 2. True Heb 10:22; pure Matt 5:8; good and honest Lk 8:15
- B. An evil, rebellious, wicked, deceitful, hard, haughty, and deceived heart needs to be changed or converted to please God and be a good, honest and pure heart

III. HOW THE BIBLE HEART IS CHANGED

- A. Heart needs to be converted: composed of (1) intellect (2) emotions, (3) will, and (4) conscience. These all must be changed
 1. The intellect is changed by evidence
 - a. Intellect that part of the heart with which man thinks Matt 9:4; believes Rom 10:10; reasons Mk 2:8; and understands Matt 13:15
 - b. The intellect changed from believing error to believing truth, thus faith is produced in the heart The evidence that produces faith is the word of God Rom 10:17; 1Cor 15:1-4; Jhn 20:30,31; Heb 11:6; Jhn 6:44,45
 2. The emotions are changed by God's love for man: With the emotions one desires Rom 10:1; loves Matt 22:37; trusts Prov 3:5; and rejoices Acts 2:26
 - a. Our emotions are changed from a love for the world to a love for God when we learn that while we were sinners God loved us and sent Jesus to die for us Jhn 3:16; Rom 5:8
 - b. Our emotions or affections are changed and set upon things above, not things of the earth Col 3:2
 3. The change of will in man is demonstrated by obedience.
 - a. The will intends Heb 4:12; purposes 2Cor 9:7; wills Ex 35:5; and obeys from the heart Rom 6:17,18 making God's will his will.
 - b. Man obeys Christ when he is baptized into Christ for the remission of his sins Mk 16:15,16; Acts 2:38; Gal 3:26,27
- B. For the heart to be changed, the intellect, emotions, and the will, all must be changed and as a result of these changes, then the conscience will approve.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Many change the intellect, (what they believe), but never obey (no change of will). Others change emotions, (what they feel) but never obey (no change of will)
- B. The will must be changed. Faith changes the intellect, love changes the emotions, resulting in obedience changing the will and then the conscience can continue to be trained by God's word to approve behavior that is regulated by God's word and condemn all other.
- C. The whole heart must be changed or converted and until that happens one has not been truly converted, because there is a part of the heart that has not been changed.
- D. HAVE YOU HAD A REAL HEART CHANGE?