

HBC Pulpit Curriculum

What's in Your Heart – Proverbs 4:23

This material is designed to help give you ideas for discussing the sermon profitably. We trust the lifegroup leaders to choose the questions that will be most helpful to their groups. No one should feel obligated to complete ALL the questions. The reason there is so much material is to offer guidance for those who would like to study the topic more fully during their devotion times during the week.

Introduction

Open in prayer. Read Proverbs 4:23

Pastor Mark began his message speaking about our physical hearts. Most of us take measures to protect and insure that they are healthy and working well. We eat right, exercise and try to keep our weight under control. What about our spiritual hearts? Are we being as diligent as we should to protect and insure that our spiritual heart is healthy? Or, do we tend to neglect it because it is unseen? Oswald Chambers said, "It is the unseen and the spiritual in people that determines the outward and actual". How are you protecting your heart? What are you doing daily to maintain your spiritual health?

I. God Wants You to Have an Accurate and Biblical View of Your Heart!

Our world and culture would have us believe that our hearts are good. The Bible paints a different picture. Read Jeremiah 17: 9-10. Describe your heart from this passage. Read Matthew 5: 8, 28, 6:21, and 12: 33-35. What does Jesus say about our hearts?

II. Considering the Battle Within.

Pastor Mark shared the heart diagram. As best you can, describe how he explained the difficulties we face in life and what is the result /effect on our hearts. Are you struggling with a vicious cycle of sin or a hardened and prideful heart? What is the right remedy? What biblical resources does the Lord provide to help you?

III. A Real Story of an Ailing Heart – Hezekiah's Story: the Heart Diagnosis and Cure (II Chron. 32: 24-31).

Hezekiah was a godly man and the Lord did great things in his life. However, he made mistakes. Read this passage and discuss how he let pride enter his heart. Do you think the blessings in his life may have contributed to his problem? What happens when we succeed? What can we learn from Hezekiah so that we avoid his mistake?

IV. Guard Your Heart.

What are you putting into your heart? What are you doing to "guard it" from becoming prideful and worldly? How can other people help you?

Please pray for additional workers for our children's and student's ministry for this next year. Continue praying for a Worship Pastor and for additional staff.