

The Gospel According To . . .

“Guarding What Is Supreme Precious”

Proverbs 4:23

(“Keep thy heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life.”)

What can be supreme in one’s life? For that matter what can be considered “supreme precious” to an individual? In other words what is the ultimate entity one considers priceless, valuable, a treasure. For some it may be health, prosperity, or your children, a spouse, your home, one’s profession, loving parents, perhaps jewelry. The list can be unending.

This particular section of Proverbs was written by Solomon, to help young people discern how to get the most out of their lives. One point in particular Solomon wanted to convey is the importance of the Heart in all matters of life; for it is the heart that allows us to define, create, and experience the essence of life.

The word heart is found so many times in the bible, it has to be significant. We cannot overlook the seriousness of this term. Heart can be translated a number of ways. Biblically speaking, largely heart refers to the inner person and her spiritual life in all aspects.

God is profoundly concerned with our inner man or it could be said the state of our hearts. We know this because the bible tells us God not only looks at, but he also searches the heart. I Samuel 16:7 (*“For man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.”*)

Let’s highlight three roles of the heart:

- ❖ It is the center of our circulatory system; the organ that pumps our blood and keeps us alive. Did you know the physical heart is 5 inches long and 3.5 inches wide? That’s a small FORCE that continues to work 24-7 until bereavement. I’m so glad God is a BIG God! He works from eternity to eternity-without end. However this is not Solomon’s thinking in his instruction. Solomon is teaching the spiritual aspect of the heart.
- ❖ “The Issues of Life.” Solomon’s intent here is pointing out the core of human life is more than information. Computers hold information, but they cannot *feel* as a result of that data. Our heavenly father has given us humans the ability to appreciate and feel emotions. These make up the issues of life.
- ❖ Because the heart can become passionate about things of God, it can likewise develop passion regarding harmful things. Thusly, we must safeguard it. This is not the worst that can occur; but when one fails to become passionate about anything!

We need to know our actions are determined by the condition of our hearts. Not the muscle, but our motives. Our conduct, character and convictions communicates to the world what’s in our hearts. How we guard, manage, and defend our passions/hearts will determine the issues we produce.

As a final point, I implore us to keep thy heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life.....

YVETTA FRANKLIN



**PALMA CEIA BAPTIST
CHURCH
28605 RUUS ROAD
HAYWARD, CA 94544
REV. TOMMY SMITH, JR.,
PASTOR**

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