

in worship with their nakedness exposed! Remember, God looks at the heart, and the attitude of our hearts is reflected in the way we dress, the way we talk, and the selfishness of wanting things our way. God does not accept second best, He demands the first fruits—perfection. If God is worthy of our worship (and He is), then He is also worthy of our wearing our best.  
- Mike

## The Big Surprise

By Kevin D. Beard

SOMETIMES surprises can be enjoyable. Finding a five dollar bill in the pocket of an article of clothing you had not worn in a while would be an enjoyable surprise. But some surprises are not enjoyable. Should the dentist surprise you by saying, “We’ll have to do a root canal,” that surprise would not be an enjoyable one.

Some will receive a big surprise on the Day of Judgment. That surprise will not be an enjoyable one. Jesus spoke of this surprise in His sermon on the mount.

“Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord shall enter in the kingdom of heaven but he that doeth the will of my Father, which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you, depart from me ye that work iniquity” (Matthew 7:21-23).

It may seem strange to some that there will be religious people condemned in the Day of Judgment, but that is exactly what

Jesus said would be the case. Notice a few things about those whom Jesus said would be lost in that day.

1. **They recognized Jesus as the Lord.** These people will not be the atheists who blatantly deny the existence of God. They will not be the Jews who rejected Jesus and the Messiah. They will not be the Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus, or any other religious group that does not follow Christ. He said that these would recognize Him as the Lord. This illustrates well the fact that mere verbal recognition of who Jesus is does not bring one salvation. Even the demons believed, yet they will not be saved (James 2:19).

2. **They did good works.** Jesus does not deny their claims. These were ones who honestly believed that they were doing good works in the name of Christ. Many people spend their entire lives doing good and giving credit to the Lord. Yet all who do such must be concerned with whether or not the Lord approves of their actions. These were condemned because Jesus never knew, or approved of them. The Lord’s approval of good works comes only when those works are done in harmony with His will.

**They believed they were saved.** Whether they had misunderstood the teachings of Christ, or whether they were misled by someone else, these were ones, evidently, who sincerely believed they were doing right. But in the Judgment Day, they found out that the standard they had followed was their own, not the Lord’s. Sincerity does not guarantee acceptance with the Lord. Paul sincerely believed he was doing right in persecuting the church, yet he was wrong (Acts 23:1).

Man’s salvation is dependant upon his complete submission to God’s will. Some will be surprised at what the Lord says to them. Make sure you are following what the Lord would have you to do, and not just what someone told you the Lord’s will is. The only surprises on that Day will be the ones who thought they were saved, **but they actually were lost!**

## Heartland Herald

1899 Saint Joseph St.  
Dubuque, Iowa 52003



### Heartland church of Christ

3430 Dodge St. Suite 1  
Dubuque, Iowa 52003  
(563) 588-1974

#### Evangelist

Michael Demory

#### Ministers

All members of the church

#### Schedule of Services

Sunday—9:30am  
Wednesday—7:00pm

#### Evangelic Efforts

Dubuque Advertiser

TV Program  
“The Bible Says”

Public Access  
Cable Channel 16

Free Bible Studies

### Steps to Salvation

- **Hear the Word**  
(Romans 10:17)
- **Believe** (Hebrews 11:6)
- **Repent** (Luke 13:3)
- **Confess Christ**  
(Matthew 10:32-33)
- **Baptism** (1 Peter 3:21)
- **Faithful Living**  
(Revelation 2:10; 1 Corinthians 15:58)
- **Bearing fruit**  
(Colossians 1:10)

Volume 4 No. 46  
June 13, 2010

# Heartland Herald

Practicing 1st Century Christianity in the 21st Century

Website: [www.dbqheartlandcoc.org](http://www.dbqheartlandcoc.org)

Email: [the\\_bible\\_says@dbqheartlandcoc.org](mailto:the_bible_says@dbqheartlandcoc.org)

## The Heart

By Mike Demory

IN Mark 4:14-20 and Luke 8:11-15 Jesus tells the parable of the sower or soils. Represented are four different types of soil that depict differing hearts found in mankind. From our text let us examine what the Bible is speaking of in relation to the heart.

**The Mental Ability of the heart:** The Bible ascribes comprehensive activity to the heart by the fact that it can think: “Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?” (Mk. 9:4), and “Out of the heart come forth evil thoughts” (Matt. 15:19). The heart understands (Isa. 32:4; Matt. 13:15), it knows (Prov. 14:10). We are able to believe with our heart (Rom. 10:10); reason with our heart (Mk. 2:6) and judge with our heart (1 Jn. 3:20-21).

**The Impressibility of the heart:** Through scripture we learn that our emotions flow from the heart. Our heart “rejoices” (Ps. 33:21), but at the same time can lament (Prov. 15:13). Through the heart we show our love for God (Matt. 22:37), or our abhorrence for our fellowman (2 Sam. 6:16). The emotions of the heart can cause us to fear (Deut. 28:67), hate (Lev. 19:17), be happy (Prov. 15:13); or be troubled (Prov. 25:20).

**The Inclination of the heart:** Within each of us is a heart that is inclined to follow some sort of action, whether it is good or bad. Pride more often than not, prohibits scores of people from obeying the simple plan of salvation (Obad. 3; Prov. 21:4). With the heart we are able to determine: “But he that standeth steadfast in his heart, having no necessity, but hath power as touching his own will, and hath determined this in his heart” (1 Cor. 7:37). Unfortunately some go to the point of allowing their hearts to become “deceived” (Deut. 11:16; Jas. 1:26). Arteriosclerosis (hardening of the arteries) is a common disease of our day, but Pharaoh suffered from what the Bible called a “hardening of the heart.” This condition was not something surgery would cure, rather it is a situation that involves stubbornness of our will against God’s (Ex. 4:21).

Multitudes suffer from hardening of the heart simply because they have failed to realize who the real Master truly is. Most will not obey God’s plan of salvation, but would rather follow what man has established (Matt. 7:13-14). Others, who have obeyed from the heart that form of teaching which is able to save (Rom. 6:17-18), may still have a stubborn streak which has caused them not to totally leave the cares of the world behind them (Rom. 12:1-2). Remember, it is by the heart that some will repent, while others will not (Rom. 2:4-5).

**A Change of Heart:** We are reminded of those in the first century who upon hearing Peter’s first gospel sermon had a change of heart (Acts 2:22-47). Their transformation came because they were “pricked” (pierced; to sting sharply) in their heart. Because of what they heard their hearts were penetrated, changing an otherwise stubborn will. It was not the result of a direct working or miraculous operation of the Holy Spirit, nor was it some heart-felt religion. Those who hold to such doctrines push aside the intellect and emphasize the emotions. It was the Word of God that caused the change of heart (Rom. 10:14-17). Saul of Tarsus persecuted the church

## Remember in Prayer

### Special Prayers

Preston Estes family  
 Brett Boor—open heart surgery—soon  
 Mya Kulle - a tumor that turned out to be a cyst  
 Kristy Farr  
 Jo Gordon  
 Ruby Bagwell  
 Scharles & Graham Ballard  
 Our new evangelism effort  
 Lyra Grochmal (7 yrs)—spine cancer— more tumors are growing  
 Lilly Rucker & family

Laurie Davis—Multiple Sclerosis  
 Yolanda Ritchwood—M.S.  
 Natalie Bauman—M.S.  
 Wade Miller—diabetes  
 Susan Noel— that she studies to understand God  
 Russell Bender— that he studies to understand God  
 Freeman Dudley—liver cancer  
 Kaiser family  
 Eric Boor—blood disease  
 Rockfalls church of Christ  
 TV Program  
 State of our Nation  
 The closing of Planned Parenthood  
 The church  
 The erring & the Lost

### Military

Jonathan Duckstein—Afghanistan  
 Michael Chlamon—Ft. Drum, NY  
 Daniel Heflin—Afghanistan  
 Jason Cunningham—Stateside  
 Jon McCain—Tech Training  
 Military families who are coping while loved ones in harms way

### Evangelizing the World

Garret Derouin—Webster, Wisc.  
 Scott Nedland—Rice Lake, Wisc.  
 Brian Sherrell—Rockfalls, IL.  
 Bernie Guzman—Philippines  
 Johnny Robertson— Martinsville, Vir

James Oldfield—Riedsville, NC  
 Derrick Brown —Jamaica  
 Gary Workman—Ukraine  
 Kolakaluri Prasad—Nalgonda, Dist., India  
 G. Prabhu Kumar—Chennai, India  
 John O'Neal—India & Ghana  
 Tom Wacaster—India & Russia  
 Holger Neubauer—South Haven, Michigan  
 Ernie Lawrence—Hutto, Texas

## Calendar of Events

- **June 14-16**— Editing @ Mediacom 1-5pm
- **July 27—Aug. 1**—County Fair Booth
- **August/2nd week**—Power Lectures—Southaven, MS
- **Sept/3rd week**—St. Louis Lectures
- **October 18-21**—Lectureship—Dubuque, IA

because he did not have a full understanding of God's will, yet he was a deeply religious man, sincere in what he was doing (Acts 23:1; 26:2-11; Gal. 1:13-14). One can only become a disciple of Christ by adherence to the word of God (Jn. 8:31-32; 14:15; 2 Thess. 2:14).

### Conclusion

Biblically speaking, the heart is not the organ of the flesh, but represents the true character of the individual. Although intellect, emotion and the will of the heart are vital aspects of our unique characters, an honest heart is also required. In Luke 8:15 Jesus said the good soil represented those who possessed an "honest and good heart." Anyone who seeks the truth and desires a right relationship with God must maintain that good and honest heart. As God's people, may we keep our hearts in all diligence through pure religion (Prov. 4:23; Jas. 1:27).

## What Hope Would You Have Given David?

By Stan Harvey

ONE of the most inspiring stories of the Bible is that of David when he was "but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance" (I Samuel 17:42), facing the giant Goliath. Not many, by today's standards, would have given David any kind of chance of defeating the mighty Goliath. Even David's older brother was angry with him for being there in the first place. Men today would say, "the odds" were against him ---but were they??

Somehow, David was not aware of fear or the fact that he was but

a youth or that others before him had refused and were unable to meet Goliath! Consider the following:

1. David believed in the power of the living God and was willing to defend His great name. "...for who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?" (I Samuel 17:26b). This was no doubt in the heart of this young warrior!
2. David believed that there was a cause, or reason---a need---for doing. "Is there not a cause?" he asked (I Samuel 17:29). The cause was obvious to David!
3. With David there was no hesitation---no looking back. David, as a youth, believed that God could accomplish through him a victory over Goliath. "Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine" (I Samuel 17:32).
4. With David it was not that God "might deliver," but that God "will deliver!" "The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion and out of the paw of the bear, will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine" (I Samuel 17:37). David not only wanted to defend God's name, but also was willing! There's a big difference. "...but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied" (I Samuel 17:45). God had appointed; God would produce the results he was looking for. "And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S and he will give you into our hands" (I Samuel 17:50).

Perhaps it was because David was "but a youth" that he showed such courage; in truth, it was because of his **willingness** to do God's work that he prevailed (see I Samuel 17:50).

A high school class asked a successful business man what his formula for success was. He replied, "By doing more than what was expected of me." Great attitude! Certainly David did more than what was expected of him. Someone once said, "...This thing that we call 'failure' is not the falling down, but the staying down." Brethren, just how much do we love God? Let's permit the love of God to motivate each of us to acquire these qualities of David. **AMEN!**

## God Deserves Worship

by Kevin Rhodes

IT is sad how some Christians approach worship. To them worship is some boring ritual that takes place each week in order to appease a distant Deity. They enter; they sit; they stand; they leave. The actions undertaken in between lack purpose to these people because they themselves have little understanding of why they are in the assembly beyond that highly motivating reason of "I'm supposed to be here."

Rather than approaching worship as an empty ritual, we should bow before the Almighty with the full understanding that God deserves worship. "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created" (Rev. 4:11). But His deserving worship does not stem from some claim but from His very existence. God deserves worship because of who He is: the omnipotent (Ps. 66:3), omniscient (Ps. 139:1-6), omnipresent (Ps. 139:7-12) Creator (Gen. 1:1). He deserves worship because of what He has done: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (Jn. 3:16). God's seeking of true worshippers is not the action of some arrogant, self-absorbed being. Instead, Jehovah searches the masses for those who recognize exactly how loving and how giving He has always been (Rom. 5:8-9).

Worship is an expression of our reverence for God based upon our growing knowledge and appreciation for Him. "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him" (Ps. 89:7). Reverence is that inner respect and awe that swells up within us when we reflect upon God's grandeur—placed in evidence by His creation, His revelation, and His redemptive plan. Our regular contemplation of these things should come out through the expression of worship in spirit and in truth (Jn. 4:24). Therefore, emotion is part

of the worship expression but not the foundation for it. God most certainly wants His people to be emotional about their faith and their relationship with their God; however, He also designates that an understanding of His will precedes faith (Rom. 10:17) and that reasoned faith in Christ should precede and direct our emotions (2 Cor. 5:14). God never intended for worship to become a highly-charged, emotional pep rally or concert. To the contrary, He has always desired worship conducted in reverence (Heb. 13:15), according to His will (Mt. 26:39), filled with the heart (Mt. 22:39) of a person fully committed to righteousness and holiness in life (Eph. 4:24).

Many people clamor for louder music, a more visible role, or a more "contemporary style." But when we approach God with reverence, temporary style is lost in eternal glory, a visible role becomes meaningless before the invisible God, and a quiet hymn sung together is far more stirring than the beat of a drum. True worship drops the artificial in favor of the truly spiritual.

**NOTE:** Brother Rhodes brings out some very important points that everyone should consider when approaching God. One other note that many seem to be forgetting today, is the manner in which we dress. As people clamor for more entertainment to keep them attending services, they are also clamoring for approval for immodesty. Many "churches" have caved into the whims of their members by opening the door to "just come as you are" type attitudes and they certainly are. Just as God has not authorized the addition of instruments in worship to Him, neither has He authorized dressing down. Paul says that the Old Testament has been given to us for our 'Learning' (Romans 15:4).

Notice God's requirement to the Jews—"I will be sanctified in them that come nigh Me, and before all the people I will be glorified" (Leviticus 10:3). That certainly does not sound like God does not care about how we do things. Also, think about the ornate clothing that was required of the priests who served God (Exo. 28:1-43; Lev. 21:1-8). When approaching God the priests were to have their nakedness covered (Exo. 28:42), yet today men and women think they can approach God