

July 31, 2011

Praise Him with the timbrel and dance. (Psalm 105:4)

volume 2 • no. 15

“In the heavenly Lamb thrice happy I am, And my heart it doth dance at the sound of His name.” ...Wesley

My Trembling Heart's Desire

The sky above the mountain flashed
Behind the darkened veil;
The people trembled far below—
What if this Moses failed?

Behind the veil within a Rock,
And covered by a Hand,
Glory burned on Moses' face
At the passing of I AM...

Yahweh-Yeshua—
Holy One of Israel, Almighty living Fire;
Jesus-Jehovah—
My Lord, my God in majesty; My trembling heart's
desire.

The sky above the mount turned black
As darkness filled the scene;
The people trembled with the earth,
What could this strange day mean?

There in the darkness hangs a form—
My God, How can it be?
The bleeding temple of I AM
Hanging dead upon a tree.

Yahweh-Yeshua—
Holy One of Israel, Almighty living Fire;
Jesus-Jehovah—
My Lord, my God in majesty; My trembling heart's
desire.

The sky above the whole world flashed,
Behind the darkened veil,
The people trembled with the earth
As their heart's began to fail...

Then GLORY split the eastern sky,
Flooding all the land;
Saints rejoiced as demons fled
The unveiling of I AM

Yahweh-Yeshua—
Holy One of Israel, Almighty living Fire;
Jesus-Jehovah—
My Lord, my God in majesty; My trembling heart's
desire.

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Through the Bible... Part Fourteen

Solomon- Prt 2

An 'Unkept' Heart: The Root of Ruin

But king Solomon loved many strange women... For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. (1Kings 11:1, 4)

Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life. (Pr 4:23).

As we have seen previously, Solomon became the greatest of Israel's Kings, so far as dominion, wealth, and power are concerned. His reign was the golden age of Israel, and in him we beheld the promise of the great coming King of Kings. With this backdrop it is extremely disheartening to contemplate the end of his life. How could the wisest man on earth end so foolishly? Herein is a great lesson to which we all must take heed: as important as education, intellect and wisdom may be, they are powerless to control the heart of man.

Solomon knew this, for he wrote much about this very thing. His proverbs warn us on three occasions that "*the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom/knowledge*" (Pr 1:7; 9:10; 15:23). Solomon himself said, "*Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it flow the issues of life*" (Pr 4:23). Earlier in his life he had set the standard for his friends: "*He who has purity of heart and has grace upon his lips will be a friend of the king*" (Pr 22:11). The prescription naturally extends its application to the friends of *the King* (Christ), of whom, as we have seen, Solomon was a type. But Solomon's life tragically illustrates the importance of his own advice. When one allows the heart to become distracted and complacent about God, wisdom turns to foolishness, and all the intellect and education in the world will not hold the heart in check. So we must bring the lesson of Solomon home. Jesus said, "*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God*" (Matt 5:8). Are we "keeping" our hearts with all diligence? What are the characteristics of a "kept heart"?

A "kept heart" is a broken and contrite heart.

Jesus said, *blessed are the poor (bankrupt) in spirit for*

theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt 5:3). A "poor and contrite heart" is highly esteemed before God (Ps34:18; 51:17; Isa 57:15; 66:2). Humility is a hallmark of grace. Salvation begins with a great humbling of the heart before God, and continues in "the meekness and gentleness of Christ" (2Cor 10:1). One cannot walk with Christ without being humbled before His very nature. Pride, especially religious pride, will always corrupt the heart, and move us away from true communion with God.

A "kept heart" is a renewed heart. "If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation" (2Cor 5:17); "Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of heaven" (Jhn 3:3,5); "I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh" (Ezek 11:19); "A new heart, also, I will give you" (Ezek 36:26); "...being born again... by the Word of God" (1Pet 1:23); "He saved us through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit" (Titus 3:5). The wicked and deceitful heart of the 'natural' man (Jer 17:9) must be supernaturally changed by God in Christ. Because of the renewing of the heart, and the indwelling of Christ by the Holy Spirit, the thoughts, intents, and desires of the true believer are fundamentally different then those of the unbeliever. Though still struggling with the flesh (the reason we must keep our hearts with all diligence), the heart of the Christian is prompted by a "new and living way" within (Rom 7:6; Heb 10:20).

A "kept heart" is a thirsty heart. Out of that renewed heart will come a hungering and thirsting after God (Matt 5:6; Ps 42:1-2; 63:1; 143:6). Communion with God in Christ is the very wellspring of life for the child of God. In one sense there is a great paradox in this. Though only that 'water' can fully satisfy the believer, yet, having tasted, he is ever thirsting for more.

A "kept heart" is a loving heart. "Everyone who loves is born of God, ...for God is love" (Jhn 3:6-7); "The love of God has been shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit." (Rom 5:5); "Love is the fulfilling of the law" (Rom 13:10; Matt 22:37-40; Gal 5:14; James 2:8); "Faith works by love" (Gal 5:6). Religion (including Christian religion) can often make people caustic, combative, negative and critical. A renewed heart is known by its graciousness and love. "Because lawlessness will abound the love of many will grow cold" (Matt 24:12).

Therefore, "building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God..." (Jude 20-21).

A "kept heart" is a forgiving heart. Every human being stands in the need of God's forgiveness, and those who find it must in turn be forgiving. "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors... for... if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your father forgive your trespasses" (Matt 6:12,15). Forgiveness is not a feeling, but a choice. Don't wait for your feelings to change to forgive someone; because of Christ, to God's glory, choose to not hold the offense against them. That means you "let it go" and will not cast it in the offender's face the next time you are dissatisfied with him/her. Jesus said of those hammering spikes into His hands and feet, "Father forgive them..." (Lk 23:34); Steven said the same as he was being stoned to death (Acts 7:59). Therefore, "if anyone has a complaint against another, even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do" (Colos 3:13) ...from the heart (Matt 18:35).

A "kept heart" is a wellspring of gracious words. "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks... but I say unto you, for every idle word that men may speak, they shall give account... For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned" (Mat 12: 34-37); "Does a spring bring forth from the same opening fresh water and bitter?" (James 3:11). "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good for edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers" (Eph 4:30).

A "kept heart" is a joyful heart. Here is another paradox. Only those with broken and contrite hearts can know true and lasting joy. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace..." (Gal 5:18). "In His presence is fullness of joy" (Ps 16:11). God wants joyful children. Jesus instructed His disciples so that "their joy might be full" (Jhn 15:11). Do we serve the lord with gladness (Deut 28:47; Ps 100:2)? Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice (Phil 4:4)!

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