

INTRODUCTION

- * Two weeks ago we began a study of Solomon's discourse of philosophical thoughts contained in the book of Ecclesiastes. In that message, we saw that Solomon was a young man who grew up in a family containing much discord, distrust and intrigue. He became the king at a young age and at first seemed to have a desire for serving YHWH as David did. However, Solomon began a process where his heart eventually turned to serving other "gods."
- * Last week, we considered the importance of retaining the basic truths of the Exclusiveness of YHWH and the Eternalness of Man in your philosophy of life. Today, we will consider one last foundational consideration as we consider Solomon's analysis of life "under the sun" as pure "vanity."
- * Throughout Scripture and life in general, the "Heart" is used to define the core of your being as revealed by your desires and will, from the perspective primarily of our emotions in contrast to our intellect. Our "desires" refers to our passions; our "will" refers to our courage or enthusiasm.
- * Jesus stated, "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks." (Matthew 12:34) Also, He declared, "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies." (Matthew 15:18-19)
- * As we will see, Solomon not only allowed his heart to be "beguiled," but he purposefully turned it! Solomon sadly knew the folly of this decision, for in Proverbs 4:23 he declared, "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it *spring* the issues of life."

INSTRUCTION**I. THE C _____ OF S _____**

A. He Purposefully C _____ His Own Heart (cf. 1:16; 2:1, 15; Prov 20:9; 28:25-26; Jer 17:9; 1 Chron 17:2-4)

B. He Purposefully T _____ His Own Heart (cf. 2:1,3; James 1:12-16; Numbers 15:38-41; Proverbs 13:20)

II. THE C _____ OF S _____

A. Setting Your Heart on G _____ (cf. 1 Samuel 16:7)

1. B _____ HIM (cf. Deuteronomy 6:4)

2. L _____ HIM (cf. Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 22:37-38; Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 37:4)

3. T _____ HIM

a. For Salvation (cf. Romans 10:9; Acts 8:37)

b. For Direction (cf. Proverbs 3:3-6; 28:25-26)

4. S _____ HIM (cf. Psalm 119:2; Psalm 86:11; Hebrews 11:6)

by ...

B. Setting Your Heart on G _____

1. M _____ IT (cf. Psalm 119:11; Deuteronomy 6:6-7)

2. M _____ IT (cf. Psalm 1:2; 77:6; 119:97-99; Malachi 3:16-18)

3. M _____ IT (cf. Deuteronomy 6:8-9)

INTROSPECTION

- * What is your heart set upon? What is your goal in life?
- * How much time do you spend in God's Word as compared to that of the world?
- * Are you purposefully seeking to keep your heart focused upon YHWH?
- * Is there a need to change the way you think and therefore the way you act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * Discuss more fully what it means to "Love YHWH your God with all of your heart ..."