

20 12 20

The condition of a person's heart Pt 1 Hard

In this new topic we will search the scriptures to establish the various conditions of a person's heart before God. In this first part we identify that a person can have a hard heart before God and we provide three points – (1) Pharaoh's heart was hardened to God, (2) We are commanded not to harden our heart to God's word, and (3) There are consequences of having an impenitent and hardened heart– the wrath of God is upon them.

According to the scriptures

1. Pharaoh's heart was hardened

The scriptures record, therefore that Pharaoh's heart was hardened
“And the Lord said unto Moses, Pharaoh's heart is hardened, he refuseth to let the people go” (Ex 7:14). See also Ex.7: 22, 9: 7, 35.

2. We are commanded not to harden our hearts to His word – as in the day of temptation in the wilderness.

“Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness” (Heb.3: 8). See also Heb.3: 15, 4: 7.

3. The consequence of having a hardened heart

* They hear not, nor obey the Lord – “Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This [is] the finger of God: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as the Lord had said” (Ex 8:19) – c.f. – Ex.8: 32 – “And Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also, neither would he let the people go”. See also – Jer.7: 26.

Illustration

There is a middle-aged chap that often walks the streets of Auckland and engages with the preachers.

When one preacher challenged him about the condition of his heart before God he replied– “I'm not sure about the condition of my heart. I'm trying to have a heart with a moderate consistency”. He was sent a study from the scriptures of truth.

Questions to think about.

- i) Why would the Lord harden a man's heart?
- ii) Why is a hardened heart evil in God's sight?

Our answers from the scriptures.

- i) When we compare scripture with scripture we see –
 - a) With Pharaoh there was no respite so Pharaoh hardened his heart –(Ex.8: 15.
 - b) In the New Testament the Holy Ghost teaches us that – God sends **those who love not the truth** strong delusion that they believe a lie –2 Thes.2: 10, 11.

- ii) A hardened heart before God is evil because it is linked to –

- * An obstinate heart – Deut.2: 30
- * A rebellious and revolting heart – Jer.5: 23, See also Ps.78:8.
- * With their hardened necks Israel were rebellious, and refused to obey – Neh 9:17
- * A hard heart is an unbelieving heart – 2 Kg,17: 14 See also Mk 16:14.

Let us encourage one another to never harden our heart to the word of God, and be grieved (as Jesus was – Mk.3: 5 – “And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts”) before the Lord for those whom we know that are lost who harden their heart to the word of God! Amen!