

## The contents of a person's heart Pt 1 Evil

Our previous topic was "the condition of a person's heart". This is a new topic that follows on from our previous – and is titled "the contents of a person's heart. And in this our first part we consider a heart that is "evil" and establish (1) a natural man's heart is full of evil, (2) an evil heart contains unbelief, no understanding, pride, imaginations of evil, is deceitful, and (3) fruits of an evil heart are – practice wicked works, obey not, refuse to hear God's words, loathe themselves, and speak evil.

Our three points as established from the scriptures –

### 1. A natural man's heart is full of evil

"This is an evil among all things that are done under the sun, that there is one event unto all: yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live, and after that they go to the dead" (Eccl.9: 3). See also Matt.9: 4

### 2. An evil heart contains–

Unbelief – departs from the living God

"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God" (Heb.3: 12).

\* Unbelief is linked to hardness – from last weeks teaching – Mk.16: 14, no understanding, and therefore confirmed to be a natural man – Jn.12: 40, pride – Prov.21: 4) – c.f. Is.13: 11, imaginations of evil – Gen.6: 5, and deceit – Prov.12: 20.

### 3. Fruits of an evil heart–

Walk in the imagination of their evil heart,

"But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward" (Jer.7: 24).

\* Practice wicked works – Ps.141: 4, obey not – Jer.11: 8, refuse to hear God's words – Jer.13: 10, they loathe themselves – Eze 6:9, imagine evil against his brother – Zech 7:10, their mouth speaks evil – Matt.12:34, all manner of evil thoughts, murders, adulteries – works of the flesh – Mt 15:19), and proceed evil things – Matt.12: 35). S

### Illustration

The Pharisees had an evil heart whilst speaking good things – "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things?" (Matt.12: 34), as they portrayed themselves as children of Abraham.

Question to think about.

- i) How do we really know if someone has an evil heart when they speak good things?
- ii) How can they speak good things when the scriptures say – "an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things" (Matt.12: 35).

Our answer from the scriptures.

- i) How do we really know? – by a combination of their words and works. Jesus was at an advantage as He could see their hearts, but He asked questions of the Pharisees that revealed their hearts were evil, and their works showed forth their wickedness.
- ii) They speak good things whilst their hearts are evil, because they "come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves" (Matt. 7 :15). They have no discernment of evil as we saw with the Jews that accused Jesus of having devil (Jn.8: 48). Be vigilant, as "the days are evil" (Eph.5: 16), and let us who are spiritual discern those who say they are righteous yet have an "evil heart of unbelief" (Heb,3: 12)!.