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NOVEMBER DECEMBER

WHAT IS THE HEART?

Curtis McCluskey

We often hear people say, "I am simply heart-sick over that." or "I am heart-broken." We understand that their feelings are profoundly affected. We do not understand them to be referring to the fleshly heart that beats in their breasts. In the scripture, the heart is often referred to as being the seat of reason and feelings of the intellect. For instance, in Matthew 9:4, "And Jesus knowing their thoughts, said, wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?" Again in Luke 5:22, "But Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answering said unto them, what reason ye in your hearts?" Romans 10:9-10, "That if thou shalt confeww with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness." Romans 6:17, ". . . But ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine that was delivered you." So, the heart thinks, reasons, believes, and from conviction in the heart man obeys.

Proverbs 23:7 says, "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." and Matthew 12:34, ". . .For out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh." Hence, a man is what he cherishes in his heart: whether good or evil. Jesus teaches this plainly in Mark 7:21-23, "For from within, out of the hearts of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: all these evil things come from within and defile a man."

Jesus also warns us that our hearts can wax gross: Matthew 13:15, "For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them." This is a very serious condition. When your heart waxes so gross that you close your eyes to the truth, nothing can be done for you. You are lost. Another thing to guard our hearts against is hardening. Hebrews 3:7-12, "Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith,) if you will hear his voice, harden not your heart as in the provacation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: when your fathers tempted me, and proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, they do always err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So I sware in my wrath, they whall not enter into my rest. Take heed brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God." So a hardened heart is an evil heart of unbelief that departs from God. The world is full of hard hearts. No wonder then, seeing how important it is, we are told in Proverbs 4:23, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." As Jesus said in Matthew 6:21, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

We are required to keep our hearts pure. Besides meaning chaste, pure also carries a meaning of being unmixed or unadulterated with other substances. We purify our hearts in obeying the truth, I Peter 1:22. But if it were a part truth and part mixture of man's opinion, do you think it would purify us to obey it? In Psalms 24:3-5, "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart: who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing of the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation." Matthew 5:8, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."

Let us be very careful to "Keep our hearts with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life (Pro. 4:23) As the Holy Spirit, through Paul, summed it up: "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned."

Eldred Peyton - Tigard, Oregon - We appreciated your letter very much, including the encouraging words you wrote us. We are still going down to Eugene each Sunday. However, last weekend my folks and my sister's family were here so we met here in our home.

I have to force myself to write letters just as you do so we have something else in common besides our Christian faith.

Yes, the new Bible will really be a help. My brother-in-law talked for us Sunday and I let him use the new

Bible. He really liked it! Thanks again for getting it for me.

We think we may go to Yakima one of these weekends--they've been after us to do so.

As for Delta--I don't know. After our trip to Kansas the last two weeks in July, we were really all "tripped out"--physically, as well as financially. We'll see!?

Keep up the good work!

Willie Doan - Broken Bow, Oklahoma - Hello to my friends everywhere as I greet you by way of this letter. I hope all is well with you and yours. As for myself, I am doing better in health and the Church of Christ on North Park Drive in Broken Bow is doing very well. We have built up in number some this past year and welcome visitors to meet with us. Those of you coming through Broken Bow stop and worship with us.

I enjoyed reading the paper this month and I agree with the writer of "Brotherly Love." Too many of us can see our brothers' faults, but can't see our own. Let each of us read Matt. 7:5, "Thou hypocrite, first cast the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye." If we don't clean up our own life, we don't have the right to condemn our brother for his faults. Thank you Bro. McCluskey for such a fine article. I will send an article next month, if the Lord wills. I am enclosing a thought to keep in mind a prayer. "As salt seasons our food, so our service for the Lord brightens the lives of those around us."

Thou dost know, O God, the infirmities and the weaknesses of human life. Strengthen my faith, give me trust for my trembling soul and hope for my fear. Make strong my weak will and help me to be strong enough to choose the right and resist the wrong. Amen.

Sister Willis - Carlsbad, New Mexico - I hope all is well with all the members out there, also with your family.

I read where Brother England has been very ill. I do hope he is recovering very rapidly.

We are all well here at Carlsbad. Bro. & Sis. Couchman are in Colorado at this time repairing fence on their ranch, and he has been helping the farmers harvest broom corn.

A letter from sister Couchman yesterday saying they might be heading back to New Mexico pretty soon. We'll be glad to have them back.

Harry Dye - Yuma, Arizona -- Hello to all! Brother Hughes was released from the hospital after a few days of being under the weather. Everyone else is doing fine here in Yuma. Enclosed is a check for the newspaper.

Elmer H. Hunt - Garden Grove - I am gettin; ready to leave tomorrow for Tacna, Arizona. Will try to do some good work there in His vineyard for a week or so. There are about ten members of the church around there, and we are hopin; for new fruit in that area.

A. J. Daniels - Wichita, Kansas - Will drop you a few lines this mornin; to let you know how the little congregation here at Wichita is gettin; alon;.

Everyone is O. K. No sickness.

We had our first visit of Brothern and Sister since we have been meetin; here except kinfolks. We have been meetin; here for about 11 or 12 years. We use one cup, brake the bread, no Sunday School, no music. Services start at 10:30 Sunday mornin;.

Our visitors were Brother and Sister Ken Baldwin of Delta, Colorado. Brother Ken gave us two good lessons which edified the whole congregation. Brother Ken wasn't feelin; very well when they left here Tuesday mornin;. They were goin; down to Arkansas. Sister Baldwin has an uncle there. They planned on comin; back to Stilwell for church. They are two fine people, and we sure did enjoy meetin; them.

I am sorry I haven't written sooner but it seems like I can't get around to writin; anyone very much.

Enclosed is a check for $5.00 for the paper. I missed them for a while. I sure do enjoy them.

If anyone is comin; this way, they are welcome here any time. Guess I better close. . .

Lloyd Treat - Broken Bow, Oklahoma - I thought I would write you again and send a little article to the paper. It has been quite some time since I wrote to the paper. I thought you had some good writers and they wrote better articles than I did, so I would let them take up the space. Brother and Sister McCluskey sure can write some good articles, and I think that they are to the point and should have the space that maybe my article would take up. I would like for you to send me their address as I don't have it. Also the address of the Brethren at San Pablo, California.

As for news, we have been busy this year travelin; to other churches and helpin; out. We went to Stilwell one Sunday in the month most of this year and also out to Loco, Oklahoma, with Brother Taylor's folks. They are wonderful people. We also went out ot Lorenzo, Texas, to see Brother Studers and the church there. We went to the church at Seymore, Texas, too, and visited with Brother and Sister Jack White at Mundy, Texas, and Sister Franklin and folks of Goree, Texas. We also spent one Sunday at Ringo, Texas. We plan to travel quite a lot next year and hold meetings (if the brethren will let us hold them). If anyone wants a meetin;, write us soon so we can make the arrangements and book them.

Last Lord's Day, two were baptized up at Stilwell, of which we rejoice and welcome. Yours in Christ . . .

Sammy Boen - Stilwell, Oklahoma - We are some of those that have been sitting around watching a good paper die. We started receiving another paper, and the Courier started coming less often, and we just haven't sent to either. We have several excuses, but no good reasons. The Courier has been one of our best papers, and I'd like to see it back like it used to be.

I am sending a small donation to the paper from the Stilwell Church. We have just bought a station wagon for the church to pick up members who have no way to church, so our funds are very low. We hope to do better soon.

Brother Kenneth Baldwin is starting a meeting at the Stilwell Church on Sunday, November 28 through Wednesday, December 1, and then he will go on to the Baron church from Thursday, December 2 through Sunday, December 5. One week's meeting between the two churches.

Brother Earl Athley baptized a young girl Sunday night, November 21, and I baptized two young girls on November 14.

We are still having singing the 2nd Sunday of each month at 2 o'clock--rotating one month at the Stilwell church and the following month at Baron. We have had a lot of help from the Bahannon Mt. Church and also Brother Treat and family comes up from Broken Bow. Sis. Clements from Broken Bow has been up a few times with him.

Brother and Sister Floyd Cantrell from the Stilwell congregation lost their twin boys, Wayne and Dwayne Cantrell, age 26, in an automobile accident on Oct. 30. Both boys were married and left a wife and one child each.

Our meeting will be over before you publish your next paper, but I'd like for you to announce our singing the 2nd Sunday of each month. It is so important for our churches to work together, instead of so much envy and strife and struggle for power. We should all strive for one thing--for the faith of the gospel as written in Phil. 1:27. "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethern to dwell together in unity." Psalms 133:1
A brother in Christ . . .

Nancy Ogletree - Elk City, Oklahoma - Since I have not received a copy of the Gospel News Courier since the July-August issue, I have been wondering if it is not published any more. If so, is it because of lack of money, support or lack of articles and letters?

A Sister and I were talking at church Sunday about how much we hated for it to stop, as it was our only means of keeping in touch with other churches and their members. Will you please inform me.

I was forgetting to tell you when the request was printed in the Courier to begin at the first of the year and read one chapter a day in the New Testament and

three in the Old Testament. At that time, I was reading in Revelation, finishing studying the New Testament through, and I never got started reading that way until Jan. 18. Then I have had company that hindered my reading for at least three weeks. I went to Delta in Aug. to the camp meeting and was gone some over a week, visited a daughter one week, and last night I finished reading the New Testament through and am ready to start on Joel in the Old Testament. Especially in Psalms in short chapters, I would read more than three in the Old to 1 in the New.

Hope to hear from you soon. A Sister in Christ . . .

Curtis C. McCluskey - West Sacramento, California - I hope this finds you and your family well. We are pretty well on top now, though I am still wearing a back brace and using a crutch. I had a slipped disk in my back which kept me in the hospital almost a month and compelled me to cancel my appointment to hold a short meeting in Abilene, Texas; this month.

In fact, we have had a lot of sickness here recently. Sister Baker broke her foot; Sister Betty Lowder was in the hospital for major surgery; Brother Usery had ear surgery. Brother Lowery is well as usual, but he never feels really well. However, we were glad to all be back to church Sun.

Brother Roy, I had assumed that you had let the Courier lapse because of the lack of help, etc. But I have heard from two sources that you are not printing because you are not receiving any articles. I am enclosing a short article, if this is the case. I know you have those long ones of mine there. If you wish, you could split them up in serials, or I would be glad to try to get you a short one every month.

We are very interested in your paper and have often wondered about it and you. Please let us hear whatever you've decided to do.

We certainly enjoyed your sermon when you visited us. Come again soon.

La Habra, California - In answer to the many letters I have received concerning the paper, I must take the time and this space to tell you how grateful I am for your concern and explain to you the reason you have not received an issue each month these past six months. First let me tell you that we do not intend to discontinue printing the Gospel News Courier, regardless of what you have heard or what you might hear in the future. There are those who would like to see it fail, but they have nothing to do with its success or failure in any way, except through their idle talk.

One of the foremost reasons for the publishing of a bi-monthly paper was because of the lack of material received from the congregations over the country. I could have printed an issue each month, filling space with my own writings, but this is your paper, not mine

to put forth my ideas and beliefs on any and every subject that I could think of. I can still remember from years past the criticism, ridicule, and abuse heaped upon past editors of the church paper because they used their own works to fill space in an effort to keep the paper coming to us each month.

So you have received only what you have sent in exchange for your effort. We have had financial troubles, but those who care have come to our aid time after time in these crisis for which we are most grateful and we thank them from the depths of our hearts.

I think that many of our readers don't realize how much work is envolved in this work, nor do they realize that this is all done in spare time, which is not abundant by any means. I should not complain for I am proud of this work we are doing for you and the church. Neither should you complain, but spend just the little time it takes to sit down and write the news of your home congregation.

This coming year we promise to do better, but I also expect to see more effort on your part. The members here of the Bellflower congregation help as much as possible with the editing of articles and in folding and mailing the paper to you each time. I thank you and them for the effort made, but let's do greater things next year. I need, above all, you confidence and your prayers. Thank you again, Your editor. . .

I talked to Brother Howard McCay this past week about several items of church work and about the coming years plans for meetings.

As of now, the Delta Camp Meeting in August is the only one set for sure. Yakima is planning to have two one-week meetings planned in advance for 1966 and others if possible. I think that this is a good idea (i. e. planning far enough in advance so others can come and help. It also gives the members a chance to do personal work in their community prior to the meetings.) How about all of us doing some planning and personal work in our community?

Bellflower, California, has called Brother Nelson of Sommerton, Arizona, and Brother McCluskey of Sacramento, California, for a weekend meeting Dec. 11th and 12th. We will report next issue on this.

Brother Browh of Yakima suffered a stroke and is lying in the hospital in a coma. Others have been sick and our prayers are for those who are sick and those who go into the field to preach God's Word. My prayers are for the church everywhere and especially for you wherever you are that you lose no sight of the Goal.
Your Brother in Christ, Roy

Dear Brethren, We all know that the Gospel should be preached, for the Lord said, "Go ye into all the world,

and preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15) Also Paul said, "Woe is me if I preach not the Gospel" (I Corinthians 9:16) I also know there are places where they need the Gospel preached and cannot afford a preacher for a meeting at the present rates.

But I am ernestly convinced that this should not be the case. In Matthew 11:5, in order to reassure John the Baptist that he was the very Christ, the Lord sent him this word, "And the poor have the Gospel preached unto them." The prophet Isaiah prophesying that the Gospel should be free, in Isaiah 55:1-4, "Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? And your labor for that which satisfieth not? Harken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; I will make an everlasting covenant with you. even the sure mercies of David. Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people.

I have no ax to grind, and nothing to preach but the pure Gospel of Christ. Anyone who wants a preacher for a meeting and can't afford one, I will give you my best, and it won't cost you a penny. If you are so far away that I can't pay the gas bill, you can help me with that, but I am not asking a penny of support. "For though I preach the Gospel, I have nothing to glory of; for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is me, if I preach not the Gospel. For if I do this thing willingly, I have reward: but if against my will, a despensation of the Gospel is committed unto me. What is my reward then? Verily, that when I preach the Gospel, I make the Gospel of Christ without charde, and that I abuse not my power in the Gospel." (I Corinthians 9:16-18)

"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first and also to the Greek." (Romans 1:16)

I have nothing but the Gospel to preach in the service of the Lord as long as I am able. I hope if I can be of any assistance to you that you will feel free to call on me.

Yours for the Truth as it is in Christ Jesus,
Curtis C. McCluskey
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West Sacramento, California 95691 Phone: FR1-6312

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6TH Dear Roy: Sorry we haven't written about our meeting; we are waiting on a date for the camp; I'll let you know as soon as possible. We have started our trip and hope to visit every congregation to help in any way possible. If my health holds up we plan on going to Loco, Lorenzo, Broken Bow, Tiner, Okla. City, Elk City, Carlshad, Kingman and also plan to stop at Bonanza, Okla. I want to do all I can