



The Invisible Threat – (Sat.) April 11, 2020
The Enemy Within (Sin) [#3 - The Haunted House]
Jeremiah 17:9–10

Apart from Grace...

The Haunted Heart ⁱ

Jeremiah 17:9–10

⁹ *The heart is deceitful* above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

¹⁰ “*I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.*”

Matthew 15:19

¹⁹ For *out of the heart* come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.

What is the Heart?

Notes:

I. The Mind (e.g. Romans 10:10)

Ephesians 1:18

¹⁸ having *the eyes of your hearts enlightened*, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints...

II. The Affections (e.g. 2 Cor. 2:4 – “anguish of heart”)

Hebrews 4:12

¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the *thoughts and intentions of the heart*.

III. The Will (e.g. 2 Corinthians 2:4)

2 Corinthians 9:7

⁷ Each one must give as he has *decided in his heart*, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

IV. The Conscience

Romans 2:14–15

¹⁴ For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires... ¹⁵ They show that the work of the law is written on their *hearts*, while their *conscience* also bears witness...

Apart from Grace Our Hearts Lie

I. The Haunted Heart¹ (Jer. 17:9–10)

Jeremiah 9:23–24 - The Sin of Judah

²³ Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, ²⁴ but *let him who boasts boast in this*, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness...”

Jeremiah 16:12

¹² and because you have done worse than your fathers, for behold, every one of you follows his stubborn, evil will, refusing to listen to me.

Jeremiah 17:1

¹⁷ “The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron; with a point of diamond it is engraved on the tablet of their heart, and on the horns of their altars...”

Jeremiah 17:5–8

⁵ Thus says the LORD:

“**Cursed is the man** who trusts in man 
and makes flesh his strength,
whose heart turns away from the LORD.

⁶ **He is like** a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see any good come.
He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷ “**Blessed is the man** who trusts in the LORD, 
whose trust is the LORD.

⁸ **He is like** a tree planted by water,
that sends out its roots by the stream,
and does not fear when heat comes,
for its leaves remain green,
and is not anxious in the year of drought,
for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

Author's Main Point:

God has seen & will judge Judah's entrenched, hard-hearted rebellion.

II. Not Just Judah (The Hidden Horrors¹)

Matthew 15:19

For *out of the heart* come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.

Luke 6:45

The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for *out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks*.

We Have been Given New Hearts!



Ezekiel 36:26

²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and *give you a heart of flesh*.

1 Corinthians 2:16

¹⁶ “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But *we have the mind of Christ*.

2 Corinthians 5:2

² For in this tent we groan, *longing to put on our heavenly dwelling...*

Understanding the Battle in Our Hearts

The power of our hard-hearted rebellion
has been broken but not silenced.

Galatians 5:17a

For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for *these are opposed to each other...*

I. The Flesh is Still the Flesh

(The Mind & Affections control the Will & Conscience)

- A. Our Flesh Lies to Our Minds (False Thoughts)
- B. The Flesh Lies to Our Affections (Disordered “Loves”)

II. God in Us is Greater!

1 John 4:4–6 (False teachers)

⁴ Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for *he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world*.

III. Don't Forget to Ask for His Help

Psalm 139:23–24

²³ *Search me, O God*, and know my heart! *Try me* and know my thoughts! ²⁴ And see if there be any grievous way in me, *and lead me* in the way everlasting!

[TURN OF RECORDING]

Questions for Reflection and Discussion ⁱ

(I modified the questions to match my weekend sermon)

1. Many Christians are convinced that the flesh can be beaten in a single crisis event so that they can move on to a life free of struggle with sin. What do you think?

2. If you agree that the battle against the flesh never ends in this life, why do you think God has set things up that way?

3. Why do you think we would prefer a one-time-knock-down-drag-out fight to settle it?

4. What advantage is there in thinking about our heart as: mind, affections, will & conscience?
 - a. How have you been deceived in your thinking?

 - b. How have your “Loves” gotten out of order?

5. Describe specific ways you can fight against the lies we find in our heart.

Prayer Assignment:

The Spirit is our only sure help to search out the sins hiding in our hearts. Using Psalm 139 as your starting point, take one day each for your mind, will, and affections. Meditate on the work of the Spirit. Then ask him to search your heart and dredge up the worst sins he can find. Confess them, weep over them, and hate them. Ask Christ’s mercy and the Spirit’s help to crush them.

ⁱ **Lundgaard, Kris.** The Enemy Within: Straight Talk About the Power and Defeat of Sin. P&R Publishing. Kindle Edition.