

“For They Shall All Know Me”

Developing a New Covenant Relationship with God

Spring 2016 / Sunday AM Bible Study



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Lesson 9. Written on Their Hearts

Wilhelm Wundt

The father of modern psychology



Introduction

Wilhelm Wundt



09:30

1. Wilhelm Wundt, Institute for Experimental Psychology, University of Leipzig in Germany in 1879.
2. Separated psychology from philosophy by emphasizing experimentation.
3. Wundt argued that conscious mental states could be scientifically studied using introspection.
4. He trained psychology students to make observations.
5. Introspection was an unreliable method of investigation.
6. Introspection could not be used to study children or animals.
7. Complex topics, such as learning, development, mental disorders, and personality, could not be investigated.
8. Yet, to this day, introspection is seen as the key to self-discovery
9. God knows more about our psyche than we do.

God wants a relationship with people

Jeremiah 31:31-34

31 Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: **I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts.** And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Introduction

God wants a relationship with people

God wants a relationship with people
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09:32

Introduction
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What is the heart?
○○○

How to evaluate our hearts
○○○

Transforming our hearts
○○○

Review
○

Goals

2016-05-01

└ Introduction

└ Goals

Goals

– Know what your ‘heart’ is and how the New Covenant is ‘written’ upon it

– Determine some internal and external ways to evaluate our hearts

– Commit to continual heart transformation as a way to draw closer to God

09:34

Introduction
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What is the heart?

2016-05-01

└ What is the heart?

└ What is the heart?

What is the heart?

The heart is an organ

‘The heart is a muscular organ in humans and other animals, which pumps blood through the blood vessels of the circulatory system. Blood provides the body with oxygen and nutrients, and also assists in the removal of metabolic wastes.’

The heart is a symbol

‘[The heart] denotes a person’s center for both physical and emotional-intellectual-moral activities; sometimes it is used figuratively for any inaccessible thing.’

09:36

1. Ancients didn’t view the association between the heart and thoughts, emotions as a symbol.

Introduction
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○○○

Review
○

The New Covenant vs. the Old

2016-05-01

└ What is the heart?

└ The New Covenant vs. the Old

The New Covenant vs. the Old

Jer. 31:31-34

I will put my law within them

I will write it on their hearts

I will be their God

they shall be my people

... they shall all know me

from the least to the greatest

I will forgive their iniquities

genuine obedience

inward commitment

a new focus

it’s no longer physical Israel

faith not genealogy

there’s no distinctions

more than overlooking sins

09:40

1. write it on hearts – not tablets. Israelites should have done this (law ‘when you rise up and lay down’). Christians will get it right.

2. God’s covenant will become part of who we are

3. Again, a separation existed in the Old Covenant.

4. The separation was partly institutional, but mostly it was that people didn’t internalize God’s law.

<div> <div> Introduction ○○○ What is the heart? ○○● How to evaluate our hearts ○○○ Transforming our hearts ○○○ Review ○ </div> <div> Our heart can be strong 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 </div> </div> <div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ We can (and will) get old, physically. ▶ But, our heart can rise above our physical limitations. </div>	<div> <div> 2016-05-01 <div> What is the heart? Our heart can be strong 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We can (and will) get old, physically. • But, our heart can rise above our physical limitations. </div> </div> </div> <div> 09:44 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This also implies that our heart is something more than our mental faculties, which can also dissipate with age. </div>
<div> <div> Introduction ○○○ What is the heart? ○○○ How to evaluate our hearts ●○○ Transforming our hearts ○○○ Review ○ </div> <div> God judges us by our heart 1 Samuel 16:7 </div> </div> <div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Man looks on the outward appearance ▶ The Lord looks on the heart </div>	<div> <div> 2016-05-01 <div> How to evaluate our hearts God judges us by our heart 1 Samuel 16:7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Man looks on the outward appearance • The Lord looks on the heart </div> </div> </div> <div> 09:48 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How you look has very little to do with who you are. 2. When people say, “God knows my heart”, they are misusing this principle. 3. What they mean is, “I may be behaving in a manner inconsistent with the Bible, but inside I’m very sincere.” 4. It’s not possible to separate your heart from your actions. 5. Your actions certainly speak more about your heart than your physical appearance. 6. For example, Saul </div>
<div> <div> Introduction ○○○ What is the heart? ○○○ How to evaluate our hearts ○○● Transforming our hearts ○○○ Review ○ </div> <div> Law outside your heart is useless Hebrews 4:1-10 </div> </div> <div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The Law didn’t benefit the Israelites because they didn’t believe it. ▶ And it kept them out of the promised land. </div>	<div> <div> 2016-05-01 <div> How to evaluate our hearts Law outside your heart is useless Hebrews 4:1-10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Law didn’t benefit the Israelites because they didn’t believe it. • And it kept them out of the promised land. </div> </div> </div> <div> 09:52 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Belief plays such a central role. 2. It’s a shame that the Calvinists have made it a ‘bad’ word among NT Christians. 3. Don’t let their false teachings dissuade you from emphasizing the importance of belief. </div>

Knowing if your heart is good

1 John 3:19-24

- ▶ God's love and forgiveness is greater than our lingering guilt of sin.
- ▶ When we believe in Jesus, love one another, keep His commandments, and have a relationship with the Spirit. . .
- ▶ Then, our hearts will feel clean and we'll have confidence in our relationship with God.
- ▶ You can't have a good heart without love. (Deut. 10:12-22)

2016-05-01

How to evaluate our hearts

Knowing if your heart is good

Knowing if your heart is good
1 John 3:19-24

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09:56

1. Your conscience, if it's sensitive, could always be niggling you that there is some imperfection in you.
2. But, you need to have confidence that God has cleansed you.
3. You can bolster that confidence by following the principles outlined in vs.23-24.
4. Remember, we're striving for faithfulness not perfection.
5. Deut. 10:12-22 Talks about how when you set your heart to God's law, then you love god and your neighbor

You can choose your heart

Ezra 7:10

Ezra *set* his heart to

- ▶ study
- ▶ teach
- ▶ do

2016-05-01

Transforming our hearts

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10:00

1. You read about David, and you think, "I wish I was a man after God's own heart."
2. The simple answer is, "You can be!"
3. Ezra decided to have a righteous, spiritual life, and God helped him get there.
4. You can do the same.

Decide to be Different

Romans 12:1-2

- ▶ The world would not choose to be a living sacrifice, because it doesn't see the benefits.
- ▶ The Christian is transformed by first rejecting worldliness in his mind.
- ▶ That transformation brings about discernment.

2016-05-01

Transforming our hearts

Decide to be Different

Decide to be Different
Romans 12:1-2

- The world would not choose to be a living sacrifice, because it doesn't see the benefits.
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- That transformation brings about discernment.

10:04

1. You're not going to make the right choices unless you're humble enough to reject your way of doing things in favor of God's way of doing things.

