

## Sins of the Heart

The Lord said, “The heart is more \_\_\_\_\_ than all else” (Jeremiah 17:9). A deceitful heart can easily lead us into \_\_\_\_\_. We’re examining God’s diagnosis of man’s most serious problem that leads to sin and God’s \_\_\_\_\_ to that problem. God is honest with people about sin, but He’s also gracious to \_\_\_\_\_ us and to give us a new way of life. The Scriptures help us understand the serious \_\_\_\_\_ that sin presents to our souls, our lives, and our destinies. Proverbs 3:5 says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not \_\_\_\_\_ on your own understanding.”

The great \_\_\_\_\_ to our souls is sin, and the great \_\_\_\_\_ of sin is selfishness. When people put themselves \_\_\_\_\_ and forget God and others, they usually find themselves in sin. First John 2:15-17 says, “Do not \_\_\_\_\_ the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the \_\_\_\_\_ and the lust of the \_\_\_\_\_ and the boastful \_\_\_\_\_ of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the \_\_\_\_\_ of God lives forever.” Each of these points to a heart that focuses on self and what I want.

When people neglect God and begin looking for other things to fill their lives, they lead themselves in the \_\_\_\_\_ direction. People who stop worshipping with the church, stop praying, and stop reading Scripture find their hearts spiritually \_\_\_\_\_ and weak to sin. This is why we urge everyone to \_\_\_\_\_ their spiritual lives by worshipping at church, studying Scripture, and praying each day. The best response to temptation is to \_\_\_\_\_ and fill our hearts with God’s Word.

### **Our reading today comes from Paul’s Epistle to the Galatians 5:19-24.**

The first step into sin focuses on our \_\_\_\_\_ and ignores God. When people forget God and what great things God has done for us, they \_\_\_\_\_ to honor Him and to thank Him. Paul described the things that led to paganism and idolatry in ancient times: “For even though they knew God, they didn’t \_\_\_\_\_ Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the \_\_\_\_\_ of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures” (Romans 1:21-23).

One who’s not \_\_\_\_\_ to God for His blessings and kindnesses may turn to cynicism, grumbling, and complaining. Philippians 2:14 says, “Do all things \_\_\_\_\_ grumbling and disputing.” Paul didn’t want them to \_\_\_\_\_ endlessly and fuss about their lives. Complaining means that we’ve forgotten to \_\_\_\_\_ our blessings. I’ve seen poor people who were \_\_\_\_\_ in life because they were thankful to God for what they had, and I’ve seen wealthy people who were never happy because they didn’t have everything they wanted. First Corinthians 10:10, it reminds us that greed can be a problem.

Second, arrogance is the attitude of exalting oneself so that one is \_\_\_\_\_ than others. The Lord God spoke of how offensive an arrogant person is in Isaiah 65:5: They are those “Who say, ‘Keep to yourself, do not come near me, For I am \_\_\_\_\_ than you!’ These are smoke in My nostrils, A fire that burns all the day.” You’ve likely been around a campfire where the \_\_\_\_\_ seems to follow you.

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**Longer quotations may not appear in the Study Sheet, but can be read in the accompanying transcript.**

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This study sheet is prepared by Jerry Campbell – [www.searchtv.org](http://www.searchtv.org)

It gets in your eyes and nostrils! It's offensive; so is the arrogant person who thinks he is holier than others or better than others.

God calls haughty eyes an abomination in Proverbs 6:16-17 because they show an arrogant \_\_\_\_\_ that puts down others and sometimes puts down God himself. Haughty eyes presume they can do evil and get away with it. Haughty people presume and think the \_\_\_\_\_ don't apply to them. Haughty people think they are \_\_\_\_\_ criticism. Proverbs 8:13 says, "The fear of the LORD is to \_\_\_\_\_ evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way, And the perverted mouth, I hate."

Proverbs 11:2 says, "When pride comes, then comes \_\_\_\_\_." Insolent pride breeds strife and causes quarrels (Proverbs 13:10). Proverbs 16:5 says, "Everyone who is \_\_\_\_\_ in heart is an abomination to the Lord; And assuredly, he will not be unpunished." Again, Proverbs 16:18 says, "Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling." First Peter 5:5 cautions us, "You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with \_\_\_\_\_ toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives \_\_\_\_\_ to the humble."

Third, coveting is an improper desire for \_\_\_\_\_. God's law said, "You shall not \_\_\_\_\_ your neighbor's wife, and you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field or his male servant or his female servant, his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor" (Deuteronomy 5:21). To covet means to desire or crave the \_\_\_\_\_ of another, and then they do it to a fault, they do it detrimentally, they do it to such a situation that they long for it and want to \_\_\_\_\_ it. Ephesians 5:5 says that a covetous person is really an idolater and has no inheritance in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

James 4:1-4 says, "What is the \_\_\_\_\_ of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your \_\_\_\_\_ that wage war in your members? You lust and you don't have; so you commit murder. You're envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You don't have because you don't \_\_\_\_\_. You ask and don't receive, because you ask with wrong \_\_\_\_\_, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. You adulteresses, don't you know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." When a person becomes selfish and then hurtful to others, he also becomes a lover of the world and an enemy of God.

Fourth, greed or the love of money can cause \_\_\_\_\_ and heartache. First Timothy 6:10 says, "The love of money is the \_\_\_\_\_ of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered away from the \_\_\_\_\_ and pierced themselves with many griefs." People who love money are never satisfied with what they have. Solomon said, "He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance with its income. Oh, this too is vanity. When good things increase, those who consume them increase. So what is the advantage to their owners except to look on?" (Ecclesiastes 5:10-11). The Lord Jesus said, "No one can serve \_\_\_\_\_ masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot \_\_\_\_\_ God and money (or mammon)" (Matthew 6:24). In fact, Colossians 3:5 says that covetousness or greed "amounts to \_\_\_\_\_."

Luke 12:13-21 tells of a man who loved his possessions: "Someone in the crowd said to Him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to \_\_\_\_\_ the family inheritance with me.' But He said to him, 'Man, who appointed Me a \_\_\_\_\_ or arbitrator over you?' And then He said to them, 'Beware, and be on your guard against every form of \_\_\_\_\_; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.'" He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive. 'And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' 'Then he said, "This is what I will do: I'll tear down my barns and build \_\_\_\_\_ ones, and there I'll store all my grain and my goods.'" And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to

come; take your \_\_\_\_\_, eat, drink and be merry.” “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will \_\_\_\_\_ what you have prepared?’ “So is the man who stores up \_\_\_\_\_ for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

Fifth, envy is the \_\_\_\_\_ of displeasure produced by witnessing the advantage or prosperity of others. Matthew 27:18 says Pilate “knew that because of \_\_\_\_\_, the Jewish leaders handed Him over” to be crucified. Envy can cause violence and desires to \_\_\_\_\_ another of what he possesses. Proverbs 23:17-18 says, “Do not let your heart envy sinners, But live in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD always. Surely there is a future, And your \_\_\_\_\_ will not be cut off.”

Do you remember how Cain killed Abel? Genesis 4:3-5 says, “So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the LORD of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the ground. Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering; but for Cain “and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell.” John explains, “For this is the \_\_\_\_\_ which you have heard from the beginning, that we should \_\_\_\_\_ one another; not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother Abel’s were righteous” (1 John 3:11-12).

Jacob favored Joseph over his brothers; and Genesis 37:4 says, “His brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers; so they \_\_\_\_\_ him and couldn’t speak to him on friendly terms.” Envy that grows in the heart causes the \_\_\_\_\_ to come out in people and leads to heartache. Jacob didn’t fully realize what loving Joseph more than his brothers was doing to Joseph’s brothers.

Sixth, jealousy desires to have the same or the same sort of thing for \_\_\_\_\_. Love is not jealous (1 Corinthians 13:4). Jealousy and envy often \_\_\_\_\_ to selfish ambition. James 3:13-16 says, “Who among you is \_\_\_\_\_ and understanding? Let him show by his \_\_\_\_\_ behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the \_\_\_\_\_. This wisdom is not that which comes down from \_\_\_\_\_, but is earthly, natural, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.” The Scriptures never speak anything good about selfish ambition.

That’s the seventh point, selfish ambition, which is a contentious struggle for personal profit or power, with no redeeming hint of \_\_\_\_\_ to others. Selfish ambition \_\_\_\_\_ others for immediate gains and empty honors, which have no eternal value. A person who is selfishly ambitious will often step on others to make his way to the \_\_\_\_\_. He doesn’t care about anyone but \_\_\_\_\_. Such people are hard to love and often very \_\_\_\_\_. Selfish ambition leads to strife and contentiousness. Romans 2:6-8 says that God “will render to each person according to his \_\_\_\_\_: to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not \_\_\_\_\_ the truth, but obey unrighteousness, to them wrath and indignation.”

It’s much better to recognize there are things \_\_\_\_\_ than ourselves. As Christians we are to be servants of our Lord and servants of one another rather than arrogantly \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves better than others. Selfish ambition leads people to think only of themselves and regards everyone else as \_\_\_\_\_. Philippians 2:3-4 says, “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as \_\_\_\_\_ important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”

We’re to have the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ. The Lord Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ Himself and took the form of a bond-servant. “He humbled Himself by becoming \_\_\_\_\_ to the point of death, even death on a

cross. And for this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name” (Philippians 2:8-9). God will humble those who exalt themselves and will exalt those who humble themselves. So humble yourselves before the Lord.

Thankfully, God helps us to have good hearts, when we \_\_\_\_\_ on Him and His Word. Psalm 119:1-2 says, “How blessed are those whose way is blameless, Who walk in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD. How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, Who seek Him with all their heart.” Like the psalmist we should say, “Oh that my ways may be established To \_\_\_\_\_ Your statutes!” (Psalm 119:5). Later, in verses 9 to 11 he observes: “How can a young man keep his way \_\_\_\_\_? By keeping it according to Your \_\_\_\_\_. With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments. Your word have I treasured in my heart, That I may not \_\_\_\_\_ against You.”

Each day we \_\_\_\_\_ whether we give our hearts to God or spend our time in selfish pursuits. We can allow the passions of our hearts to lead us into selfish pleasure or turn our hearts to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. If you turn to selfish pleasure, in no time you’ll be a \_\_\_\_\_ to your own desires. Galatians 6:7-8 says, “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man \_\_\_\_\_, this will he also \_\_\_\_\_. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap \_\_\_\_\_ life.”

God asks us to think within our hearts about our \_\_\_\_\_. “Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the LORD, ‘Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool. If you consent and \_\_\_\_\_, You’ll eat the best of the land; But if you \_\_\_\_\_ and rebel, You will be devoured by the sword.’ Truly, the mouth of the LORD has \_\_\_\_\_” (Isaiah 1:18-20). What we choose to be, to say, and to do \_\_\_\_\_. We’ll either follow the way of the Lord or the ways of the world. If we follow the world, we’ll lose sight of God and end up with hardened hearts against Him.

So, decide today, who you’re going to follow. You don’t have to obey sin; you can have a heart that loves and \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord. When we give ourselves to God in obedience, God \_\_\_\_\_ to give us new hearts. The Lord God said in Ezekiel 36:26, “Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”

When we obey the Lord, we will place our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, we’ll repent of our sins, we’ll confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and we’ll be baptized (that is, immersed) in water in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins, just as they did in Acts chapter 2. When we’re baptized, God will wash away our sins (Acts 22:16), He’ll unite us with Christ, and give us newness of life (Romans 6:4-7). Won’t you turn to the Lord today?

Focus your heart on God by worshiping at church. Everybody needs a church family. And there’s probably a church of Christ near you. If you’re looking for a healthy, Biblical church home, we’ll gladly help you find one.