

## For Our Information

Joyce Venable has been down with the flu this past week. She is doing some better this weekend.

John Jackson will have shoulder surgery in Little Rock this Friday.

Ricky Ragsdale is in the hospital with high blood sugar, pain and cellulitis.

Theresa Ragsdale is doing better. Some medically treatable cancer was found in her lymph nodes.

Keep our brothers & sisters in mind

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

and reverent heart. Jesus commended the publican's attitude of heart, *"I tell you this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for everyone that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."* The Pharisee's heart was not kept reverent and tender. The publican had a heart that was kept reverent and tender. A heart like that of the Pharisee will become hardened and will not correct the errors in life that need correcting. Let us keep our hearts reverent and tender so that they can be easily shaped, molded by the truth, sensitive to what is right and wrong and submissive to the will of God.

Let us not neglect our hearts, but keep them "diligently" so that they will be hearts that will be pleasing to God. Is your heart one that God approves of?

Gospel Power, October 26, 2003

## Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

### Church of Christ

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# Seeking His Righteousness

Tanner St Bulletin Volume 6 Number 6

February 2017

## "Keep Thy Heart With All Diligence"

David A. Cox

Solomon long ago recognized the importance of having the right kind of heart. He wrote, *"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life"* (**Proverbs 4:23**). The reason Solomon was so concerned about the kind of heart man had was because man will be what his heart is (**Proverbs 23:7**). Let us consider the heart and why we should keep or guard our hearts.

### Why Should We Keep Our Hearts?

First, let us understand that the heart that is under consideration here is not the blood pump, but the Biblical heart.



*Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life.*

**Proverbs 4:23**



## Meet With Us

### Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

### Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

TannerSt.com

The scriptures describe its function as that which: thinks (**Matthew 9:4**); reasons (**Mark 2:8**); understands (**John 12:40**); loves (**Matthew 22:37**); and wills or purposes (**2Corinthians 9:7**). These verses clearly show that the heart determines what kind of person we are. We should guard our heart above all things.

**The heart of man is susceptible to change.** This change is good if one's heart is not what God is pleased with and changes in order to please God. However, the heart that pleases God must be aware of evil and watches carefully lest it be turned away from God. This is what Solomon exhorts us to be mindful of and to guard our heart; lest it be turned to do evil. Change in our heart can be so gradual that if we are not on guard, it can change without us being aware of it. Many people that we know at one time had good hearts have turned away from serving the Lord and doing His will.

**How Should We Guard Our Heart?** We need to make sure our zeal, intensity, and sincerity of our heart does not wane. Paul reminded the Romans to be "*fervent in spirit*" (**Romans 12:11**). Paul was telling the Romans that this was to be the life of a Christian, not on just special occasions. Christianity is not just something to be played at or a one or twice a week type of thing. Christianity deserves our fervent, earnest, zealous service at all times. In **Revelation 3:16-19**, the Christians in the church at Laodicea lost their fervor and zeal in serving the Lord. They were rebuked and told to change and serve the Lord faithfully. We must not allow our service to Christ to become old and just common place with no zeal or

## Store In My Heart

### 2Corinthians 9:6-7

Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Do you want to receive? Then give. Do you want blessings? Then bless others.

Take what God has given you and give to those less fortunate. God expects His children to have love and compassion for their fellow man. He blesses us so that we can bless others.

Spreading blessings among others will return even greater blessings. The joy of seeing someone supplied with what is needed is at least one way we can be blessed.

fervor of the heart being present. Let us guard our hearts from the things that cause our zeal to grow cold and keep our hearts fervent.

**Keep Our Heart's Affections Right.** Jesus said, "*Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also*" (**Matthew 6:19-21**). Jesus is reminding His followers to keep their hearts' affections in the right place. Paul exhorted the church in Colossee to do the same thing when he wrote, "*Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth*" (**Colossians 3:2**). We must guard our hearts and keep them focused on the things which will enable us to go to heaven. If we focus our attention on heavenly things, we will not have time to focus on the earthly things. In life, it is so easy to lose our focus and forget what our purpose on earth is, that is to "*fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man*" (**Ecclesiastes 12:14**). Let us guard our hearts from losing focus of the eternal things.

**Keep Our Hearts Reverent And Tender.** The heart that is not kept reverent and tender is not a heart that can please God. Reverent attitude of heart means that one will have deep respect, honor and standing in awe before God. The one whose heart is lifted with pride and arrogance cannot please God. The Pharisee in **Luke 18:9-14**, prayed to God with a heart filled with pride and arrogance, but the publican prayed at the temple as well with a tender