

**2-14-16**  
**UNDERSTANDING THE ASPECTS OF AN EVIL HEART**

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all [things], and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Jeremiah 17:10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

We have been talking about the heart the last few weeks. Our Scripture Chorus for the month goes along with this theme.

Psalms 37:3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

***Psalms 37:4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.***

Psalms 37:5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

The Bible says that the heart of the natural man is desperately wicked above all things. Who can know it. In our natural state the Bible says Men's hearts are at enmity with God.

Just the other day.. ABC news had an interview.. with one of the parents of one of the boys that was involved in the Columbine shooting.. In the Interview Diane Sawyer says "that the reason for the interview.. is that we have got to try and learn something.. For our own lives and to try to protect ourselves from the next shooting.."

***Friday night Diane Sawyer asked Sue Klebold if she believer in "EVIL"***

*A strange question I thought...*

***Dylans Mom .. says.. "I don't think so.. I don't think I do.. "***

***Then an expert Former FBI agent Ellen O'Toole, one of the worlds leading profilers of the criminal brain.. says evil is a spiritual term. and it doesn't have any legal or behavioral meaning.. so I stay away from it..***

When she said that I just shock my head in disbelief...

You see, here is a quote for justification for such thinking...

*They argue that the time has come to replace such metaphysical terms with physical explanations—malfunctions or malformations in the brain. Of course, people still commit innumerable bad actions, but the idea that people make conscious decisions to hurt or harm is no longer sustainable, say the new brain scientists. For one thing, there is no such thing as "free will" with which to decide to commit evil. (Like evil, free will is an antiquated concept for most.) Autonomous, conscious decision-making itself may well be an illusion. And thus intentional evil is impossible.*

So here we are .. we have the experts who are supposed to give us the answers, who deny the most basic premise of all behavior .. that there is good and evil..

The wisest man that ever lived said about the way we live..

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 **For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.**

In contrast to all this it is Dylan Klebold.. writing about his death

Klebold wrote in his diary as he was considering his attack on his High School.... He writes that life was no fun without a little death, and that he would like to spend the last moments of his life in nerve-wracking twists of murder and bloodshed. He concluded by saying that he would kill himself afterward in order to leave the world that he hated and go to a better place.

If there is no good.. no evil.. no right .. no wrong.. why not?! Do this horrific thing and then when you kill yourself.. you go to a better place.. What you do, you do because you are conditioned to do so.. you are a product of your environment and conditions around you and influences.. etc. etc.

The religion of mainstream America today is Humanism..

The Humanist does not believe in evil, God, the devil, Biblical morality..etc

You see those who do not believe in evil..

Do not believe in Hell ..

Do not believe in the God of the Bible..

How sad.. the experts are trying to find answers to why young people do horrific things without believing that there could be evil in their hearts..

The Bible says it clearly

***Jeremiah 17:9 The heart [s deceitful above all [things], and desperately wicked: who can know it?***

***Jeremiah 17:10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.***

According to the Bible

***I. WE ARE BORN NATURALLY IN THIS WORLD WITH A WICKED AND EVIL HEART..***

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Romans 3:11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

Romans 3:12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

Romans 3:13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

Romans 3:14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

Romans 3:15 Their feet are swift to shed blood:

Romans 3:16 Destruction and misery are in their ways:  
Romans 3:17 And the way of peace have they not known:  
Romans 3:18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

In a world dominated by wickedness.. without a true understanding of God's word and the nature of the our depraved hearts.. why are we surprised at the bitterness and bizarre behavior of young people today!

I think one of the best things that our educational system has done is to make cyber schools available as an alternative for certain kids and families..

Why are we surprised at the depths of wickedness... people will fall into .. when the Bible describes their wickedness in these verses..

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***II. ONLY WHEN WE ARE BORN AGAIN BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD CAN OUR WICKED HEARTS BE TRANSFORMED INTO A NEW HEART THAT IS CAPABLE OF GOOD..***

What men need is a new heart.. and that heart only comes by receiving Christ as their Lord and Savior.. Then God imparts to us a new heart and and a new Spirit..

Romans 3:13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:  
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One of the greatest evidences of a persons wicked heart is manifested by their cursing and bitterness..

Luke 6:45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

Jesus came to earth .. sharing God's love, speaking truth .. Sharing how we should love one another .. forgive one another.. be kind one to another..

Yet men, because of their pet sins.. would rather live in the mud..  
Rather.. endure the darkness..  
Rather bask in the hate and scum and uncleanness.. of this world.

They love the pleasures of sin.. but why are they shocked

That drunkenness leads to murder..  
Adultery leads to thefts and fraud..

Why are we surprised that when we play with fire.. and then while we sleep our whole house is consumed in fire..

### **III. EVERYTHING A MAN DOES PROCEEDS FROM THEIR HEART GOOD OR WICKED**

Matthew 12:34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

Matthew 12:35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

Matthew 12:36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

Matthew 12:37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

Matthew 7:16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

Matthew 7:17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

Matthew 7:18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

Matthew 7:19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Matthew 7:20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Why are we surprised that men with wicked hearts do wicked deeds..

Why are we surprised when men who have no fear of God curse His name..

Why are we surprised such men do harm to other men..

A person will do what is in their heart..

DAVID SAID IT..

I Samuel 24:13 As saith the proverb of the ancients, Wickedness proceedeth from the wicked:

Why are we surprised when wicked men do wicked deeds..

**IV. THE WISEST THING WE CAN DO IS TO DEAL WITH EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO THEIR WAYS AND DOINGS WHICH WILL MANIFEST THEIR EVIL AND WICKED HEART OPENLY**

WHY SHOULD WE DEAL WITH PEOPLE THIS WAY? THE REASON IS BECAUSE THIS IS WHAT GOD SAYS THAT HE DOES..

Jeremiah 17:10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Yet, no longer do we deal with people based on their actions, now we have to consider their race their color, their sex.. etc. After all, the reason we have so many people of one color in prison today is not because of their own actions, it is because of the raw deal they are getting in society. If we raise their income and standard of living this will change.

We have bizarre policies in our nation because we no longer believe people are responsible for their actions. We as social scientists can tweak their behavior by our social policies. Of course we need bigger government to do this...

Does God not know how to govern?

Jer 17:10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

**1. YOU CAN DETERMINE AN EVIL HEART BASED ON WHAT A PERSON DOES AND THE WAY THEY ACT..**

You will be judged on the basis of what you do.. how you act.. That is the way God does it! He deals with men according to their actions and doings.. And how can you do that if you do not define what proper moral actions are and what is good.. and what is evil.. what is right and what is wrong.. What we used to call wrong yesterday is no longer called wrong today!

Today everything is subjective..

No one likes rules..

Today .. many Christians.. are like that FBI profiler.. who says.. I avoid saying there is evil.

In the Garden of Eden the devil sold Adam and Eve a lie when he said rebel against God and you will be able to determine good and evil on your own.

Today we have gone a step further .. we say there is no evil. Therefore, as long as we as a society determine that this is acceptable behavior it is good.. But we can't use the words.. SIN OR EVIL.. because they are spiritual terms.. and we have to avoid spiritual words..

So along comes a new generation that wants to broaden the horizons.. and redefine the limits.. Usually this is manifest in breaking the rules concerning dress.. What was the status quo is challenged by this new free thinking generation, and their rebellion is first manifested in their dress..

In the 60's the hippies had long hair..

Then it was spiked hair..  
Then it was shaved heads..  
Then it is the tattoos..  
Then it is the piercings..

After all, nothing is good and nothing is evil... We can't judge on the basis of these outward characteristics..

The 60's it was free love.. love the one you're with ..  
In this new Millennium it is same sex marriage.. as long as we all agree it is ok..

Let's stretch the limits.. After all there is no Evil.. that is a spiritual term..

If there are no defined borders.. than how can we judge a person's behavior?

In the Old Testament, our School master.. The Lord told His people how they should live.. what they should eat what they should drink.. every aspect of their life was defined and divided as right and wrong and good and evil by the law..

Now we say we are no longer under the law..

Yes, we are not under the law, but the covenant is that God will write His law in our hearts.. And everyone shall know Him.. By the way, new "Christians" behave as if the author of the law written in our hearts is not the same author who wrote the law in tables of stone.. As if that author has changed and is a bit flaky..

**BUT EVEN THE WORLD, AS WACKY AS IT IS ... HAS LIMITS ..**

When two young men go into one of our schools and start shooting and killing everyone.. the humanist as well as the Christian say ..

**WE CAN'T HAVE THIS..  
THIS IS NOT GOOD.. LET'S TRY AND FIGURE OUT WHY THEY DID THIS..**

As long as we are able to redefine behavior according to what WE think is right it is ok.. but if we go beyond that to Biblical standards.. well we have a problem now..

**WE CAN'T HAVE THIS DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIOR.. YET OUR YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE PICKED UP ON OUR ETHIC AND PICKED UP THE BALL AND RUN IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION AND WE DON'T LIKE IT.. BUT IT IS THE BALL THAT WE GAVE THEM CALLED HUMANISM..**

So their reasoning says, who are these authorities to dictate to me what is acceptable and proper behavior? After all, these same authorities have rebelled against the greatest authority which is the Lord himself!

Our parents redefined the limits why can't they!  
After all there is no such thing as Evil.. who is to say what is wrong?

Jeremiah. 17:10 ... SO GOD IS ... giving every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings...

## **2. GOD DEALS WITH EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS WAYS....**

Jeremiah 17:10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

If there are no defined lines of behaviour, how can one be judged on the basis of what they do?

GOD HAS LINES DRAWN IN THE SAND AND YOU BETTER LEARN WHAT THEY ARE..

Ever notice that no one clamors for their pet sins like same sex marriage and things like that in times of crisis.. When 911 came prayer was in again.. Invoking God for comfort and divine help was ok..

God is dealing with men according to their deeds..

We face one crisis after another to restrain us because of our evil hearts...

God brought a flood to the world because of men's evil hearts.. yet men deny it and don't believe it.. would rather skillfully reason away fossil evidence by their vain imaginations.. They need to fabricate millions and billions of years.. and can accurately tell you what happened a million years ago with greater certainty than what the weather will be a week from now!

### ***BUT THROUGHOUT HISTORY GOD HAS DEALT WITH MEN ACCORDING TO THEIR WAYS!***

After the flood there was the tower of Babel and the confounding of the languages and the birth of the nations of the world.. Again a trial for humanity which led to wars and adversity.

There are so many things that God brings to restrain men from being able to do what their wicked heart and imaginations want them to do..

### **A WICKED HEART NEEDS TO BE RESTRAINED**

God restrains us through adversity after adversity..

We don't live as long as people did before the flood.. because when someone has a wicked heart, given enough time their actions will degrade into fulfilling their wicked desires..

If God had not intervened in the flood... the whole world would have gone into wickedness..

If God had not intervened at the tower of Babel the whole world would have gone into idolatry ..

If God had not shorted our lives to 3 score and ten .. wicked men would have longer to fulfill their wicked desires..

Today we have experienced frigid cold weather.. and mark it down – many, many have been restrained from doing some things because of adverse weather

AS I GO OUTSIDE AND EXPERIENCE BELOW 0 TEMPERATURES.. I MARVEL AND THINK OF THIS VERSE..

Psalms 90:7 For we are consumed by thine anger, and by thy wrath are we troubled.

Psalms 90:11 Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath.

Psalms 90:12 So teach us to number our days, that we may apply [our] hearts unto wisdom.

Men look at the harsh, hostile environment we experience in nature and use that as an excuse to deny God... when in fact the reason God allows the adversities of our environment are great evidence of His existence. God is dealing with man kind according to his ways. We are getting what we deserve because of the fruit of our wicked hearts. And men instead of repenting, blaspheme God and deny Him and cuss Him.. So the environment gets worse and natural disasters proliferate. And so we have this endless cycle of confusion. This will all lead up to the tribulation where God will judge the world. And still we read in the book of Revelation that men refuse to repent..

***V. THE CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER IS WISDOM WOULD DICTATE THAT MENS WICKED HEARTS NEED GREAT RESTRAINT***

Just as God deals with men according to their hearts.....

Jeremiah 17:10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

The Hostile environment is a restrainer..

Sickness is a restrainer..

Hardship is a restrainer..

God brings these things on us because of our wicked heart.. and to restrain us from our wicked intentions.. SO WHAT DO WICKED MEN DO WHEN THESE HARDSHIPS COME UPON THEM?. INSTEAD OF REPENTING, THEY CURSE GOD..

They raise their fist against the Almighty.. You would think hardships would soften their hearts.. NO, THEY BECOME HARDENED! THEY ARE ANGERED! FULL OF WRATH ..

Psalms 2:1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

Psalms 2:2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,

Psalms 2:3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

Psalms 2:4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

Jeremiah 17:10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

God for our own good restrains us from doing everything we want to do..

Which of us.. would not right now rather be in some tropical paradise.. basking in the sun.. instead here we are in this frigid weather..

They call it a Polar Vortex! You would think the poorest economies would be in the cold north.. Yet Most of the wealth of our nation is located in this area affected by this Polar Vortex. Truth is that hardships many times produce beneficial results.

So what lessons can we learn as we understand the nature of our wicked hearts? What we need to learn from Jeremiah is that God deals with us according to our wicked hearts..

Jeremiah 17:10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

God brings restraints into our lives based on our ways and doings!

### **1. THERE ARE EXTERNAL RESTRAINTS.. FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NO INTERNAL RESTRAINTS**

Those who do not have internal restrains must be restrained externally ..

WE ALL ARE BORN WITH A WICKED HEART AND NEED RESTRAINTS!

Freedom is not good for those who are bent on doing wickedness..

One of the great fallacies of our humanistic society is this: given the right environment Children will turn out ok..

THAT IS A FALICY OF HUMANISM..

Proverbs 29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.

Every human being comes into this world bent on doing evil and left to themselves without restraints they are capable of doing great evil..

The reason we are seeing all the atrocities we are seeing in our society today is because of the lack of restraints that are imposed our young people!

YOUNG PEOPLE CAN SAY ANTHING THEY WANT..

THEY CAN DRESS ANY WAY THEY WANT..

THERE IS A TOTAL VOID OF DISCIPLINE AND RESTRAINT

### **2. THE MORE NOBLE A PERSON THE MORE INTERNAL RESTRAINTS THEY HAVE..**

PAUL HAD TO RESTRAIN HIS PHYSICAL BODY AND APPETITES..

I Corinthians 9:27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

We always admire people that show resolve and restraint in their lives..

We admire people with athletic abilities.. because they have shown discipline and restraint in their lives.. Our wicked hearts need to be restrained..

### **3. THOSE WHO HAVE THE SPIRIT OF GOD SHOULD MANIFEST THE MOST NOBLE VIRTUE OF SELF RESTRAINTS**

THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD..

John 16:8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

The Holy Spirit will restrain us from within ..

BUT A CHARACTERISTIC OF THE END TIMES IS THAT THERE WILL BE A VAST MAJOIRTY OF PEOPLE WHO WILL BE HARDENED TO THE CONVICTION AND RESTRAINING POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT..

***Jude 1:18 How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.***

***Jude 1:19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.***

### **4. JESUS HIMSELF WILL HAVE TO RULE THE FUTURE KINGDOM OF GOD ON EARTH WITH A ROD OF IRON..**

The said in the interview with Sue Klebold that her son's friendship with Eric Harris was the great motivator for his actions and rampage...

Yet in the Millennial Kingdom Jesus will have to rule the world with a rod of Iron even in the absence of evil influences..

The point is who influenced Cain to kill Abel..

We are quick to blame the parents.. yet Adam did the same things with Cain that he did with Abel .. and then with Shem!

What made Jacob different from Esau?

David was the father of Absolem as well as Solomon..

The Lord says it this way..

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Jeremiah 17:10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

In the interview concerning this woman's son who killed all those people .. Diane Sawyer said, "What would you do different today?" The Mom said.. I would have searched my son's room and not just assumed everything was all right..

In other words, she would have taken action to restrain him and find out what was going on..

Let me give an application to this verses..

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Jeremiah 17:10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

SEARCH YOUR HEART - TRY YOUR REIGNS...

Apply the necessary restraints based on what you discover.....

People make all kinds of excuses for the way they are.... this is none other than deceit!

God brings tribulation into our lives to get us to search our hearts..

I have a missionary friend who one time told me that while facing the greatest trials of his life he set himself to fast and pray for some days.. While he was fasting he asked God to show him his heart. He said he was sickened by what he saw. He said he wept uncontrollably for a whole day!

Do you know that I think there is not one of us, if we were in a similar position, would not do the same thing?

I Corinthians 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

I Corinthians 11:32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Jeremiah 17:10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Let us search our hearts looking for internal restraints by way of the Spirit of God. This is the true benefit of being a child of God and being filled with the Spirit of God.

I John 1:9 says that if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

We are born naturally with a wicked heart alienated from God. When we repent and come to the Lord He transforms and cleanses our hearts.

After David sinned with Bathsheba he wrote:

PSA 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

We cannot ask for this until we recognize the wickedness of our fallen nature and wicked heart. This humanistic, atheistic world reasons away the evil in our hearts and keeps men from experiencing this right spirit, and cleansing of the heart that David cried out for.