

The Ponderer of Hearts

*Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts.
– Proverbs 21:2 –*

The Bible has so very much to say about the hearts of fallen men. Our hearts are deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. They are described to be intrinsically haughty, proud, and naughty. Jesus said that out of the heart of man flows evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, and foolishness. The Holy Spirit has gone to great lengths within the pages of Scripture to ensure that we understand that this central apparatus of our spiritual being is grossly diseased and in need not only of cleansing and transformation, but also continual keeping, inspection, and maintenance.

Any Christian who does not reflect frequently upon the status of their heart will quickly find themselves out of sync with the God of their salvation. As redeemed sinners with both a renewed as well as a fleshly nature, we still possess the disgusting propensity of self-justification. If we do not lay our hearts bare daily before our Savior, we will soon find ourselves acting upon our natural inclinations rather than obeying the Spirit's promptings. We must ponder our hearts in order to keep them on a God-honoring trajectory. The amazing thing is, the Lord has not left us to do this alone – He, too, is busy about the same business in us.

To ponder means to stop, analyze, and think deeply about a matter, for the purpose of understanding it for some kind of utilization. Think about this, then, a moment (indeed, let us ponder the meaning of our text.) The Lord God of heaven and earth, the Maker of the stars, the Owner of the cattle on a thousand hills, the High and Lofty One, the Ancient of Days, the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End – stops, if you will, and stoops to “think” deeply about our hearts. It is a matter of utmost importance to Him. This One who is of purer eyes than to behold evil loves us so much that He pulls over and parks in the garbage dump of the human breast in order to lay bare our motives for the purpose of calling us closer to Him and making us more like Jesus.

Today, as we go about our daily business, let us be on watch for two things. First, let us guard against ignoring our heart's natural propensity and indulging in self-justification. And secondly, let us gratefully sense the presence of our inner Friend Who is so deeply interested in what is transpiring in the center of our being. This will no doubt keep our hearts upright, strong, and glad.