

HAVING A HEALTHY HEART

No doubt, heart disease and problems is a major health concern in our society. Heart health is a term often heard, referring to living a lifestyle that is conducive to having a healthy heart. The heart under consideration here is the muscle in the chest that pumps blood throughout the body. However, we each have another heart that it is even more important that we keep healthy. We are talking about our spiritual heart.

The wise man, Solomon, said, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23). Jesus said, "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. 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" (Matt. 12:34-35). Recall that when Simon the sorcerer attempted to purchase the ability to bestow miracles on others by the laying on of hand, Peter told him, "Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God" (Acts 8:21). And, when Ananias, along with his wife Sapphira determined to lie about an offering for the work of the church, Peter said, "Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?" (Acts 5:3).

However, just as we see the unhealthy heart displayed in the New Testament, we likewise see the healthy heart displayed as well. Once, when a lawyer asked Jesus the question, "which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matt. 22:36-37). The apostle Paul wrote, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Rom. 10:9-19). In addition to believing in the heart, Paul had earlier pointed out that they "...were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Rom. 6:17-18).

There you have it. Our physical life depends on a healthy physical heart and our eternal life depends upon a healthy spiritual heart! *RCO*

OUR UPCOMING MEETING

Some may think I am jumping the gun to start now writing about our upcoming meeting, but really, it is just about six weeks away and will be here before we know it.

I use the word "our" intentionally to point to the fact that this meeting is supposed to be a joint effort of all the members of the church here with the visiting preacher who will deliver the lessons. No matter how great, eye opening and forceful his lessons, if there are no people to hear these lessons, they will have been delivered in vain. This means it is our job to put souls in the building to hear these lessons. Just where are we going to get these souls?

The first source of souls to consider is our own. Each and every one of us need to make it our number one priority to be present for every service of the meeting. Included in this source are those who are members who have not been attending any at all. Call them, write them or go see them; just do all you can to get them to come to the meeting.

The second source of souls to consider is family members and close friends. If we have family members and true friends who are lost in the world of sin, certainly we should love them enough to try to "pull them out of the fire" (Jude 23). Inviting them, encouraging them and even bringing them to the meeting is a great way to have them exposed to the truth of the gospel of Christ.

Thirdly in our sources of souls to fill the building with, is anyone you come in contact with, and efforts need to be made to come in contact with any that you can. In other words, invite neighbors, the convenience store clerk and just anyone that you can.

Often there is little effort put into getting non-Christian visitors to attend our meetings. Visitors from our sister congregations are good, but they are not the reason for the meeting. Could it be that we have forgotten the importance of just one soul? Jesus said, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? (Mark 8:36). Or, could we have forgotten that only those who have truly obeyed the gospel of Christ are going to make it to heaven? Have we forgotten what happens to those who have not obeyed the gospel? Paul said that when the Lord returns He shall, take "vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (II Thess. 1:8). Our meeting is that important! **RCO**