

A Perfect Heart

The expression to walk before the Lord with a “perfect heart” is exclusively found in the Old Testament. It first appears in the words of Solomon as he addressed the people at the dedication of the temple. Solomon said: “*Let your heart therefore be perfect with Jehovah our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day*” (1 Kings 8:61).

Tragically, Solomon did not follow his father’s advice (1 Chronicles 28:9), or his own advice, later in life. When he was old he forsook the Lord and did not have a perfect heart (1 Kings 11:4). Other kings did not have a perfect heart like Abijam (1 Kings 15:3) and Amaziah (2 Chronicles 25:2).

So, what is a “perfect heart”? It is not a sinless heart. It is a heart that seeks to be completely (perfectly) devoted to God and his word (Psalm 119:80). It is a unified heart without divide (see 1 Chronicles 12:38). A “perfect heart” does not try to serve the world and God at the same time (Matthew 6:24). A “perfect heart” also follows truth (2 Kings 20:3) and is trustworthy (2 Chronicles 19:9).

Let’s serve the Lord with a “perfect heart” all throughout our life and we will find ourselves more faithful, more confident, and more happy. - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- Let’s praise self LESS and God MORE.
- Sometimes a small, kind deed means more than a large, expensive gift.
- To be a peacemaker with man, you must first be at peace with God.
- It is not a shame to have one talent, but it is a shame not to use it.
- You will never travel the road to heaven if you stay parked.

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Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Does It Make A Difference What One Believes?

The religious world is divided contrary to Jesus' words. He prayed for a unity based upon the words of the Apostles, but the religious world today is divided because the words of men (John 17:20-21).

A popular concept today contributing to this religious division is this slogan: It doesn't make any difference what one believes as long as you are sincere. This popular concept keeps many people from studying the Bible on such subjects as salvation, worship, the church, marriage, etc. It's keeps people from trying to be unified. If you can believe whatever you want as long as you are sincere, then the variety of beliefs will definitely keep people divided. This popular concept is an effective tool of the devil to spread division in and out of the Lord's church.

It Makes A Difference

Does it make a difference what one believes in the area of religion? Well, let me ask you a different question: Does it make a difference what one believes in the area of math, business, science, etc.? People would certainly answer: "Yes, it makes a difference!" Here's another question: Does it make a difference what your doctor believes

about your health? Or, does it make a difference what you believe about your own health? You see, if it makes a difference what one believes in various areas of life, it makes a difference what one believes in the area of religion. And, I would argue that what you believe in religion is more important because it has eternal consequences.

Is There One Thing?

Is there one thing that we all must believe to be right in religion? Many would say: "Yes, you must believe in God (Hebrews 11:6) and Jesus (John 8:21,24)." Ok, if it matters *whether* we believe or not, then it matters *what* we believe or not! If there is one thing that we must believe, then it makes a difference what one believes! We have an objective standard (a code) of what we must believe and that standard is God's word (John 8:32; 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:16).

If There Is No Difference

Think about it, why does Paul speak of a difference between believing truth and believing a lie (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12), if it doesn't matter what one believes? Why do Jesus and others tell us negative things about those who "believe not" (John 3:18; 6:36,64; 8:45,46; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John

5:10; Jude 5), if it doesn't matter what one believes? Why does John tell us not to believe certain teachings (1 John 4:1), if it doesn't matter what one believes?

Does It Make A Difference?

Does it make a difference what one believes? Is there more to the matter than sincerity? Yes, absolutely! Ask the man who believed the old prophet in 1 Kings 13. He sincerely believed the lie of the old prophet and was punished for it. Ask Saul of Tarsus who persecuted Christians in Acts 26:9. Saul (Paul) sincerely believed that what he was doing was right, but we know from his own admission that he was wrong (1 Timothy 1:12-16).

What We Must Believe

Friend, we must have a belief based upon the evidence of God's word, not just sincerity (John 4:42; 20:31; Acts 4:4; 15:7; 18:8). We must examine God's word to cause our own belief (Acts 17:11-12). We must then obediently act upon our belief (Mark 16:16; Acts 5:14; 8:12,13,37; 11:21; 19:18). Finally, we must unite upon our belief in the word of God (Acts 2:42,44; 4:32). - Chris Reeves