

The heart of the problem

The rather nervous, middle aged lady sat down on the opposite side of the consulting desk. "Well, what's the matter?" I asked. Hurriedly she burst out. "It's my heart, doctor; I've had it all my life!" I barely refrained from telling her that it was just as well!



Later that evening I began to think about the unconsciously humorous statement of that patient. There was a lot in it - but not in quite the way she'd meant. When I reflected on the situation in the world — the wars, the greed, the lust, the lies, the selfishness — so much of the

world's problems did seem to stem from the human heart. It really seemed that the problem of the heart was the heart of the problem.



Adolf Hitler

God has given us an inner view of the heart. He has said that our hearts are "desperately wicked." Our reaction is to retort, "It is certainly true of nasty neighbours, people in prison, or evil dictators like Hitler, but not me." Yet a moment's reflection reveals that it is more accurate than we had thought.

Jesus taught that we didn't have to kill to be guilty of murder; the day we hated someone, in God's record book, Jesus said, the entry was – '**Murder.**' (Matthew 5:22) We need to learn that "God does not look on the outward appearance but on the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7) I have often been asked, "Why can't I see God?" The Bible says "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God," Our hearts are not clean.



Do you want a clean heart? It is a wonderful possibility. The condition on which we come to Jesus Christ to appropriate His pardon is that with real humility we each acknowledge our personal guilt as sinners before God and accept His death on the cross at Calvary for our sins. "Jesus... His own self bare our sins in His body on the tree". The wonderful fact is that not only can our hearts be cleansed, but that He will dwell within. This is the Saviour who says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock, if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in (Revelation 3:20)

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