

WORD OF THE DAY



WORD OF THE DAY ([Jeremiah 17:9](#))

*"The **heart** is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?"*

The Heart of the Problem



A dark heart. The prophet Jeremiah was called to preach the message of God to the people of God. He tells the people of Judah, "*The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron, and with the point of a diamond: it is graven upon the table of their heart, and upon the horns of your altars ([Jeremiah 17:1](#)).*" Jeremiah stated the severity of the problem by using a metaphor of a pen made of iron, with a diamond tip, to represent the magnitude of the sins of the people. Jeremiah stated that these sins were metaphorically written on their hearts; both indicating a record of their trespasses, as well as their moral bias to, and predisposition for, sin.

Jeremiah also mentioned in his metaphor the horns of the altars. In those days, before the atoning death of Jesus on the cross, priest sacrificed on the altar to atone for sin(s). Furthermore, in those days, anyone, fugitive or refugee, who grabbed hold of the horns of the altar, was granted asylum (protection & safety) ([1st Kings 1:50-53](#)). But in his metaphor, Jeremiah describes the horns of the altar as being written on by this symbolic pen of sin; likely symbolizing that the protection and safety that God's people were seeking, was being blocked by their sins.

So what is the problem, and why has the nation of Judah fallen into sin? In the verse of the day, Jeremiah answers and warns the people of Judah that *the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked*. The heart is not simply described as wicked, but desperately wicked. Just as a man drowning fights desperately to cling to life, the human heart (not the biological organ but the seat of our desires) desperately seeks out, and cherishes sin. Jeremiah was telling the people of Judah that the source of their sinfulness was the moral corruption and innate wickedness of the heart. The world tells us to follow our heart and chase our dreams, yet Christians are to be reminded that we cannot put our trust in our hearts which are sinful - we need to put our trust in God.

A new heart. The solution to a dark heart is to be transformed with a new heart. Jeremiah continues in verse 14 and cries out to the Lord stating his prayer, "*Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise.*" And David petitioned in [Psalm 51 verse 7](#), "*Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow*". Similarly, we must cry out to the Lord God to be saved and healed, and given a new heart. One which is not darkened by the ink stains of sin, but one which has been purified through repentance from sin and faith in Jesus.

-Your brother in Christ, [WNL](#)

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The heart of the problem, is the problem with the heart.
-Pastor P.M. Smith

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Dear God, thank you for reminding me that the source of my indwelling sin is my sinful heart. Help me to never trust my heart, especially when it contradicts your WORD and embraces the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.



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