

## Sermon II ‘The Heart of the Matter’ 36: 26

- Reflect: intro sermon: 1) God is Holy God in covenant with ungodly idolaters
- God has every right to destroy Israel – according to justice, so why doesn’t He?
- God will act for His name alone: though they deserve death, He will give life
- God “will cleanse them” it will be by His hand alone.
- Israel will worship God, not out of servile fear, but out of reverent love.
- God will do this first by “sprinkling clean water on them” and now we see He will...

### I. Give you a New Heart, a Heart of Flesh(36: 22-24)

- Moses spoke in the Law that God would give His people a new heart (**Deut 30: 6**)
- When the Bible speaks about a new heart? What does it mean? What does it describe?  
*It was essentially the whole man, with all his attributes, physical, intellectual and psychological, of which the Hebrew thought and spoke, and the heart was conceived of as the governing centre for all of these. It is the heart which makes a man, or a beast, what he is, and governs all his actions (Pr. 4:23)<sup>1</sup>*
- Witness of the Bible: ‘New heart’ ‘New spirit’ = rebirth, regeneration (Ezek 11: 19)  
D.A. Carson “the gift of a “new heart” & a “new spirit” do not suggest mere aspects of human personality, but the transformation of all of human character.<sup>2</sup> “
- The Psalmist describes it in Psalm 110: 3 – it is a new principle of life just as there is a difference between the gills of a fish and the lungs of a human being
- John says the new birth must be “an act from God”, “born from above” **John 3: 3**
- Must read the OT in light of NT to understand - picture =sound Biblical hermeneutics
- “new heart” “new birth”: divine nature which believers in Christ become partakers of
- “New heart” “new spirit” are synonymous with the new man, new creature. Eph 4: 24
- It’s the new creation God makes of us when Jesus delivers us from our sin 2 Cor 5: 17
- Only Messiah accomplishes this in the NC, He baptised us by the Spirit into His body  
**John 1: 33; 1 Cor 12: 13; Gal 3: 27.**

<sup>1</sup>Wood, D. R. <sup>1</sup>Carson, D. A.: *For the Love of God : A Daily Companion for Discovering the Riches of God's Word. Volume 2.* Wheaton, Ill. : Crossway Books, 1998, S. 25  
W.: *New Bible Dictionary.* InterVarsity Press, 1996, c1982, c1962, S. 456

<sup>2</sup>Carson, D. A.: *For the Love of God : A Daily Companion for Discovering the Riches of God's Word. Volume 2.* Wheaton, Ill. : Crossway Books, 1998, S. 25

- David prayed for & sought this heart obedience & by faith looking forward to Christ received it. **Ps 51: 10** cf. **Jhn 8: 56\***; Lk 10: 24; Gal 3: 7-9; Heb 11: 13, 39
- Paul testifies: reality & substance are found in Christ alone: **2 Cor 3:3**- a comparison from - law written on stone & life of Christ in - believer is made: reference: **Prov 3:3**
- Christ, who kept the law, now living within me, gives me a heart of flesh: true humanity is restored, my heart feels, it grieves, it thirsts for God (changed want)
- This is a two part operation, → not only is there transformation there is renovation

## **II. God will Remove My Stony heart“vs.26”**

- How terribly wicked & fallen we all are as humans – Jeremiah testifies 17: 19
- Human soul does not need resuscitation but regeneration – Ezekiel calls our hearts lifeless stones. Zechariah says our hearts are diamond hard **Zech 7: 12**
- God’s Word, again “I will sprinkle” now vs. 26 “I will remove” –God does it.  
John Flavel: *The heart of a man is his worst part before it is regenerated & the best afterward; it is the seat of the principles & the foundations of actions*
- Jesus verdict on the heart of man is clear **Mk 7: 15, 21-23** Proverbs warns **14: 12**  
CH Spurgeon: *I do not advise any other person to try self healing. It brought me to despair; it drove me almost to - loss of reason. The more I scrubbed & cleansed, - blacker I became. I washed my filthy self, & was more filthy after I bathed than I was before. I only saw how filthy - filthy man was when I had try 2 clean him with my soap (Job 9: 30, 31)*
- Hardened “sinners” need regeneration not reformation (**Mark 2: 22**) *Dentist removes rotten tooth, doesn’t polish it, hope it gets better, if left rot will spread to others*
- Wretched, helpless condition of fallen man, David express cry in Ps 51: 5; 58: 3
- Same cry from Paul in **Rom 7: 24** “wretched man that I am” sinner’s verdict on Himself before so Holy a God, “who will deliver me from this body of death”!
- Ezek **36: 26** comfort from the NC “**I will remove it**” I will do it!
- Paul’s response and answer to his own question in **Rom 7: 24** in **Rom 7: 25, 8: 1,2**  
**Rom 7:25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. Rom 8:1,2 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.**