

Doctrinal Summary of The Heart of Man-Weighed and Measured Against the Standard

In Proverbs 21:2 Solomon identifies that God weighs the heart of man against His standards.

“Every man’s way is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the hearts.”

The word “way” is translated from the Biblical Hebrew word דֶרֶךְ (“de-rek”) which literally means, “well-established pathway which is used to journey upon.” Often it refers to a physical pathway created as a result of being traveled upon consistently and repeatedly. But it is often used metaphorically or symbolically to represent the pathway of one’s actions. Such is its usage in Proverbs 21:2. Thus, it represents the well-established pathway of man’s actions.

Since man’s actions are the result of his beliefs and his beliefs are stored in his heart, the “way” of man refers to the morals, norms and standards, and protocols which man has accepted as the correct pathway to journey upon during each moment of his life. Each time the man relies upon the same accepted moral, norm and standard, or protocol in the moments and circumstances of his life he broadens and deepens the pathway between his mind and heart. This builds reflexive behavior in his brain as the body develops a pre-existing pathway to follow each time the same circumstance presents itself. Because these pathways are based upon the individual’s perspective of the acceptability of a moral, norm and standard, or protocol, they are “right in his own eyes.” However, God weighs the hearts of men to fairly evaluate their morals, norms and standards, and protocols.

The word “weighs” is translated from the Biblical Hebrew word תִּכַּן (“toh-kaen”) which literally means, “performing the continuous action of verifying something by means of measuring it against a standard.” God puts the belief system of man (his heart) on scales to balance them against His standard (righteousness). This is a continuous practice of God’s whereby He regularly examines the beliefs man has accepted as the morals, norms and standards, and protocols for his daily life. In His examination He lines up man’s belief against righteousness. If the belief of man matches up with God’s standard, then man’s belief is righteous and in line with God’s. If the belief of man fails to match up with God’s standard, then man’s belief is unrighteous and out of line with God’s, despite seeming upright to the man. At this point man’s heart has condemned him before God.

For the unbeliever that condemnation results in conviction towards the gospel of Christ. But for the believer that condemnation results in conviction towards confession of the disparity in his personal beliefs. When the believer responds appropriately to this conviction, confessing the disparity, then the result is restored fellowship with God and a renewed heart. As the believer continues to spend time in fellowship with God, he persuades his heart into further alignment with God’s for he is operating upon divine truth (cf. 1 Jn. 3:19). The believer’s recognition that he is operating in fellowship with God is based upon his observation of his heart continuously operating from divine truth rather than human viewpoint. As the believer sees this, he develops confidence before God from which he can approach God to speak boldly and openly (yet, reverently and respectfully) because his heart is in line with God’s and does not condemn him (cf. 1 Jn. 3:21).

Such confidence is only developed as the believer abides in fellowship with God and allows his heart to be transformed by the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit (cf. 1 Jn. 3:24). Sin short-circuits this process.

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