

What Are The Thoughts of My Heart?

Genesis 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

8 But Noah **found grace** in the eyes of the LORD.

- God, the Heavenly Father, the Creator of All Things, the LORD of Lords gets discouraged.
 - His heart hurts.
 - When?
 - When He is no longer in man's thoughts and hearts.
 - He made us to fellowship with Him.
 - He chose to walk and talk with man.
 - After the fall of man, He reconciled us back to Himself through Jesus.
 - God Chose Man!
 - So, why/when do we cease choosing Him?
 - When we set our affections on ourselves
 - Or anything other than Him
 - This choice we make begins to do two things...
- **First, It makes it easier for us to consider life w/o Him**
 - When we set our affections on ourselves...
 - Our feelings become more important than doctrine

- Our opinion becomes more important than what God's Word says
 - Our desires become more important than what God chooses for our lives
 - When we set our affections on anything other than Him...
 - Our pursuits cease to be about Christ
 - Our ambitions cease to be for Christ
 - **1John 2:15** Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.
 - **Colossians 3:1** If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.
- **Second, when we cease to choose God, it chips away at His merciful long-suffering and causes Him to be grieved**
 - **Isaiah 63:7** I will mention the loving kindnesses of the LORD, *and* the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his loving kindnesses.

8 For he said, Surely they *are* my people, children *that* will not lie: so he was their Savior.

9 In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them and carried them all the days of old.

10 But they rebelled and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, *and* he fought against them.

- Stephen, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit called out this truth in his sermon
 - **Acts 7:51** Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as **your fathers did, so do ye.**

- **Jesus said,**

- **37** “But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

39 And knew not until the flood came and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” **(Matthew 24:37-39)**

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- **Today wickedness is praised and propagated.**

- Man wants badly to cease to think about God.
- Even many church members and church bodies don't truly desire His presence

- They would rather hold to that which they can control than to actually live a life of faith according to His Word and Guiding Spirit.
 - Many believers are so confused by the vast variety of “doctrines” being taught
 - and sadly will most likely grab hold of something easy or shallow so they can have some **sense of spirituality without true self-sacrifice.**
- We allow ourselves to be more influenced by how society thinks than to fill ourselves with what God thinks.
- I believe we are getting closer to those days that Noah knew all too well.
 - I wonder just how much God was in the thoughts and heart of Noah?
 - How **low** had God’s mercy and grace allowed the bar to go?
 - If men’s thoughts and imaginations were “only evil continually”, how was the heart of Noah?
- The Bible didn’t say, “Noah earned God’s Grace by being good”.
 - No, he **found grace**...I’d say at the very least, Noah was looking for it.
- **How do we “find grace in the the eyes of the LORD”?**
- Noah was given this testimony in verse 9...
 - **“Noah was a just man”** and **“Noah walked with God”**.
 - This may not seem like much, but that is what is so amazing about God’s Grace!
 - It doesn’t require anything but faith from us!
 - Noah was just because trusted God for His righteousness

- Now walked with God because that is where Grace gives strength to live in a wicked perverse world where sin is so applauded
- It has nothing to do with our accomplishments, desires, ambitions, pursuits, etc....
- **It's ALL Grace**
- **Ephesians 2:8-10** tells us...
 - **8** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
 - **9** Not of works, lest any man should boast.
 - **10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.
- This is what justifies us or like Noah makes us in God's eyes "just".
- Then the next step is to just that...take repeated steps (walk) with Christ
- Then as we walk with Christ His Spirit takes our Faith and produces Good Works
 - This was God's plan from the beginning!
 - Grace is no different after salvation than it is before and with salvation.
 - I need grace as much today as I did when I was saved.
 - It is God's grace that works in the subjected life to show others who Christ is today.
 - Any good works I do in my strength may look good to the human eye
 - but when the things done are through the subjected life in Christ, the works look perfect to the hurting soul in need of grace.
 - This is the way God has always wanted it to be.

- I AM remade in His image every time I bring my flesh into subjection to His Word and Will allowing others to see His Work in my life.
- Noah didn't earn God's grace, he found it...so he must have been looking for it
 - Are you looking for God's Grace?
 - That is to say, are you justified by faith?
 - Are you Walking in the Word and Spirit?
 - Are these producing God's Workmanship in your life?
 - Who do others see in your life?
 - **What's in your thoughts?**

