

## What's In Your Heart?

Ponder: Is it more important what's in your wallet, or your heart?

Scripture: "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23, NKJV).

A certain credit card company ends its advertisements with the question, "What's in your wallet?" To hear them tell it, various features of their card make it superior to those issued by competitors. If you have a card from another company in your wallet, you should replace it with theirs.

Being careful not to abuse credit is far more critical than which card you carry! But more important than "what's in your wallet" is "what's in your heart." Your behavior is determined by the content of your heart. For example, your words, whether sweet or vulgar, flow out of your heart (Matthew 12:34). Your actions also proceed from your heart (Matthew 15:18, 19).

Each of us has considerable control over what we allow into our heart. The old computer acronym, "G-I-G-O," applies – "Garbage In, Garbage Out"! Conversely, if we allow good things to come into our heart, good things will also flow out.

James warned against having "bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts" (3:14). Such inner corruption produces "confusion and every evil thing" (v. 16). Then Paul refers to the pagan Gentiles, whom God "gave up to uncleanness in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves" (Romans 1:24). Every imaginable type of immorality resulted. Jesus Himself was angry with the Pharisees, "being grieved by the hardness of their hearts" (Mark 3:5). They had no compassion for the man with the withered hand whom Jesus was about to heal.

On a happier note, we can be like the ancient psalmist who treasured up God's word in his heart so that he might not sin (Psalm 119:11). Paul exhorted the Colossian Christians to "let the peace of God rule in your hearts," and to have thankfulness (grace) in their hearts (3:15, 16). In addition, we must have forgiving hearts toward repentant sinners, just as God does (Matthew 18:35).

Friends, let us examine ourselves! What's in your heart?