**Jeremiah 9:25-10:16**

***“Let’s Listen To Your Heart”***

**I. THE CONDITION OF YOUR HEART 9:25,26**

There are only two conditions in the world. Either God has performed an operation on

 your heart or He hasn’t.

1. ***The Determiner*** *The Lord says…I will punish*
2. The Lord of the universe knows what we are inside.
3. You may fool some, but you’ll never fool God.
4. ***The Distinction*** *I will punish these who are circumcised…*
5. A ceremonial or religious surgery was performed. It was evidence of a covenant relationship with Israel.
6. Judah was circumcised by divine command. There were those nations who practiced circumcision without a divine command (Egypt, Ammon, Moab, the USA is now one).
7. *All nations*…these were uncircumcised. To us that little piece of skin has nothing to do with your spirituality or lack of it. **It means something to Israel!**
8. ***The Determination*** *“Israel is uncircumcised in the heart...”*
9. *For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision which is outward in the flesh; But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.*(Rom. 2:28,29)
10. Israel went to the temple, they sacrificed, they kept certain days as holy. **They were as lost as the rest of the world!**
11. Israel’s religion was external. Has God done a work in your heart? Do you love the Lord with all you heart? If God hasn’t done a work in your heart, you’ll have the same problem as Judah.

**II. THE CONTAMINATION OF YOUR HEART 10:1-5; 8,9**

 ***A. The Draw To Idol Worship***

**1. It Was Popular 1-3a**

 **“***Everybody is doing it!”*

 *\**It was of of the ways of the nations.

 \*Israel was getting their cue from Babylonians. *Signs in the sky…*horoscope is

 implied. *Silver from Tarshish…gold from Uphaz* It was international.

 \*Social pressure to worship the wrong thing can squeeze us!

  **2. It was Pleasant 8,9**

 **\***Idols were adorned with silver, gold, clothe of kings.

 \*The craftsmen were excellent! How popular and attractive are the idols of this

 age: Rich desserts…satisfaction of Controlling and managing others…the

 comfort of being well-liked…the exhilaration of making it to the top…the allure

 of sexual pleasure…financial security all become god-like.

 \***They can occupy a place in your life that God alone should occupy.**

 *“What each one honors before all else, what before all things he admires and*

 *loves, this for him is God.”* Origen (185-254 a.d.)

 \*Substitutes need not be supernatural: money, power, sports, the location of

 planets (horoscopes), evolutionary theory, progress, being popular or attractive

 can all be substitutes for God!

 ***B. The Deficiency Of Idol Worship***

As popular and attractive as ‘idols’ are, **they are worthless.** Three times Jeremiah

 says that idols are *“worthless”.*

Why are idols so worthless?

 **1. Idols Are Made 3,4**

 **\***This is Jeremiah’s do it yourself kit for making idols…choose a sturdy tree,

 cut it down, drag it to the work bench, carve it, adorn it with silver and gold.

 \*One more thing: idols usually go on shelves.

 **2. Idols Are Manipulated 5**

 **\***Get a hammer and nail. Nail it down. A wobbly god may fall off the shelf**.**

That would be embarrassing!

 **\***Idols are easy to make. Idols usually go on shelves…they are worthless!

 \**They are like a scarecrow in a melon patch. v. 5 NIV, NASV*

 **3. Idols Are Meaningless**

 **\***False gods cannot speak, think, walk or do any good or harm.

 \*They cannot save from sin or bring comfort.

 *“Jeremiah pictures a tame god, a user-friendly god, who exists by human*

 *manufacture, is at human disposal and under human control. This god would*

 *never rebuke, warn, threaten, or talk back.*” Richard Keys: The Idol Factory

 **4. Idols Are Motionless 14**

 **\***Idols appear life like, but are lifeless.

 \*They may promise to produce, but can produce nothing. **They are manmade!**

***C. The Deliverance From Idol Worship***

**1. Identify Them**

 **\***Most Christians have dozens of idols.

 \**“In this society, our idols tend to be in clusters. They are inflationary, have*

 *short shelf lives, and change, adapt and multiply quickly as if by cell-division.*

 *An idol can be physical property; a person, an activity, a role an institution,*

 *hope, an image, an idea, a pleasure, a hero...anything that can substitute for*

 *God.”* Keys

 **2. Interrogate Them**

 Ask questions like:

 1) What things take the place of God in my life?

 2) Where do I find my significance and confidence?

 3) What things make me really angry? (Anger usually erupts when an idol gets

 knocked off the shelf)

**III. THE CONSECRATION OF YOUR HEART 10:6,7...10-16**

Jeremiah compares ‘gods’...

***A. The Attributes Of God***

**1. God Is Incomparable 6a** God is one of a kind. He is incomparable. Idols

 all look alike. They look like us. We made them! There is only one God!

 **2. God Is Great 6b** Idols can’t stand on their own two feet.

 **3. God Is Mighty 6c** Your character is mighty in power. Almighty idols are

 *scarecrows in a melon patch.*

 **4. God Is King 7a** When the idol is on the shelf…God is everywhere! It’s His

 due. He deserves reverence from all people and nations.

 **5. God Is Wise 7b** All the wise men in all the nations would not begin to

 approach the wisdom of God.

 **6. God Is True 10a** This is a capital T. Idols are false, and a true sham. Behind

 their fancy costumes is nothing but a block of wood. God is the genuine article.

 God cannot lie!

 **7. God Is Living 10b** God is alive! Idols have no breath.

 **8. God Is Everlasting 10c** *Where did God come from?* He always existed.

 Something does not come from nothing. Something that came into existence

 came from something!

 **9. God Is A God Of Wrath 10d** God is holy and righteous. Nations cannot

 stand! All wrongs will be made right!

 ***B. The Ability Of God 11-13***

**1. What God Doesn’t 11** Idols cannot make themselves or anything else.

 **2. What God Did 12** *In the beginning God made the heavens and the earth.*

 There was a BIG BANG…God was the intelligent Designer.

 **3. What God Does 13** God didn’t just walk away. He sustains His design by

 His power. He permits sunrise, and sunsets, set the galaxy in motion, allows

 rain, clouds, thunder, lightning, wind, rainbows, earthquakes, etc. All of these are

 a reminder of Who, What, and How Big He Is!

 ***C. The Availability Of God 16***

He saves the best till last.

1. **They belong to Him*.*** God made people for Himself. *Israel is an inheritance.*
2. **He belongs to us*.*** *Portion* is a share of allotment. Also, He belongs to us.

 **\*In Jesus Christ there is a mutual friendship.**

 *\*In Jesus Christ we help ourselves to a portion of divinity*. **He is ours by grace!**

***Jesus Christ Is No Scarecrow!!!***

**Listen to your heart! Has God performed an operation on your heart?**