

Proverb 23:26
My son, give me thine heart

The heart (labe) is a figurative term; often used by the writers to denote some particular faculty of the soul. Hence it is applied in some instances to the understanding as in **Hosea 7:11** and **Mt. 13:15**. Sometimes it is used for the memory **Ps. 119:11**; it is used also for the will and affections **Deut. 6:5**. In our text it signifies the whole mind, both soul and spirit. For these the Lord ask. Consider _

1. For what He asks. He desires to have our hearts. WHY...?

- A. It is naturally depraved. It is fallen, debased, in an unholy state, alienated from God - opposed to God - not subject to the will of God - Why would He want it ?
 - B. It is practically wicked. Dark, corrupt, seat of evil, fountain of impurity. From it proceeds all the evils of life and lip (Mt. 15:19 Ga. 5:19)
 - C. It is necessarily unhappy. Without peace, without joy, and without hope. (Is. 57:20,21)
 - D. It is endowed with immortality. It will exist forever. The soul (labe) will live eternally in one of two conditions.
 - 1) in condemnation - John 3:16-18 or 2) in the blessed presence of God.
- Think, now** is the time when the decision as to what the final end of your soul will be is in your control; the only time you will be afforded. After physical death, there will be no opportunities for change (Luke 16)

2. Consider the Person who makes this request.

- A. The claimant is God ! He is the One who made the heart. He is the One who gives it all its capacities.
- B. The rightful owner. The One to whom we are justly subject.
- C. The One who has provided a sacrifice by which the heart can be redeemed. The One with ample means for its restoration, holiness, and eternal life.
- D. The Judge. Who shall decide the destiny of all hearts.

3. Consider the purpose for which He ask for your heart.

- A. That He may enlighten it - Eph. 5:14
- B. That He may convince it - John 16:8
- C. That He may pardon it - Isaiah 55:7
- D. That He may sanctify it - 1 Thessalonians 5:23 ; Heb. 13: 12
- E. That He may keep it - Isaiah 26:2,3; Phil. 4:7

- F. That He may dignify it, make it happy - Psalm 37: 4, 34
- G. That He may endow it with eternal life - Heb.5:9 & 7:25

4. The importance of complying with this request made.

- A. On the grounds of justice - The heart is His. He formed and fashioned it.
- B. On the ground of reason. - The heart was formed **for** Him. He is its only good - apart from His all is chaotic void.
- C. On the ground of gratitude. - of His great love and sacrifice. His searching us out with the Truth. Providing the Bible and Christian witnesses to bring you the good news of hope and salvation.

We should give our hearts to Him -

Humbly - realizing what an opportunity is ours in His asking.

Believingly - giving to Him our whole heart, our understanding, will, Judgment, affections, being.

Cheerfully - with a willing and ready spirit.

Immediately - The future we know is God's. Apart from Him we do not know our own.

Today - is the day of Salvation - 2 Corinthians 6:2ff