

Dear Friends,

Once again God is so gracious unto us by blessing us with this new month. July is the seventh month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian Calendars and the fourth of seven months to have a length of 31 days. It was named by the Roman Senate in honour of Roman general Julius Caesar, it being the month of his birth. Prior to that, it was called Quintiles, being the fifth month of the 10-month calendar.

Last month we meditated that the hypocrisy is the spoiler of peace and we meditated about controlling the tongue. This month we will meditate about HEART. The heart is the engine of human existence - the most important organ of the body. Without the heart, man cannot survive as the heart carries oxygen to all parts of the body as it providing strength and circulation to work properly. Heart disease kills millions every year. We only have one heart there is no back up plan for heart failure.

The Bible speaks of the human heart almost 300 times - not so much about the vital blood pumping muscle but uses that as a parallel for the spiritual side of humanity. The Bible tells us the heart is connected to the mind, will and understanding and should be guarded against evil. Jeremiah said a man's heart is "deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" (Jer. 17:9) as sin has permanently affected our hearts. However, God "knows the secrets of the heart" (Psalm 44:21), "searches the heart" (Jeremiah 17:10), gives a proper solution for the sinful heart and demands we turn from ourselves serving God with a "whole heart and willing mind" (1 Chron. 28:9).

To have a closer walk with the Lord we should have a clean heart. When we confess and receive Jesus, we turn our sinful hearts over to His control. Paul says, "Whenever their heart turns to the Lord, the evil (sin) is taken away.... being transformed into the same image (of Christ) from glory to glory..." (2 Cor. 3:16, 18) A heart against the Lord cannot see or reflect the Lord but when a heart (all our mind and thoughts) is given to the Lord the evil (sin) is removed and we can see God's love for us and know how to love Him in return.

May the good Lord bless each and every one of us with a new and holy heart and help us to live little closer to HIM than the previous month.

God Bless you
Yours in His service,
Bethesda Ministerial Team