

Friday 27 March 2020

Jer.17, 9-10: *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.”*

1Jn.3, 19-20: *“By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.”*

The thing about God’s word is that it gives it to us straight, that it aims at what is crucial and always accurately hits the target. Here it does the absolutely vital thing of going beyond the fact that something is not right about this and that in one’s circumstances to the central fact that *something is not right with us*. That we are desperately sick, that we all suffer from heart disease.

Do we truly know what is really going on in our heart? Of all objects of knowledge and understanding, is not the least known and understood one’s own heart, namely how it is in a state of profound sickness?

What is this sickness? It is that it hides from itself the fact that it does not, nor can, will what is good, i.e. that it does not, nor can, love God with all its strength. Its deceitfulness lies in the ways in which it hides or covers up our self-love and the bending of God’s will towards our own.

But God searches the heart and knows it fully even as we don’t. And judges it, as he must; he *“tests the mind to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his ways.”*

In Christ this judgment has been carried out. As we put our trust in him, as we believe in his name and do what he has commanded us, whenever we’re made to realise this deceitfulness of our heart we must stand on this: Christ has died to make us free, God’s grace is greater than our heart.