

# THE TRUTH AND EXPERIENCE OF GOD'S SALVATION

## Lesson Twelve

### The Consequence of Man's Fall- The Heart Became Hardened

**Subject:** The Consequence of Man's Fall- The Heart Became Hardened

**Scripture:** Ezek. 3:7, 11:19, 36:26; Rom. 2:5; Mark 16:14 middle; Mark 6:52; Matt. 13:15; Eph 4:18b; Mark 3:5; Acts 19:9; Psa. 95:7b-8a, 51:17, 34:18

**Aim:** To show the children that their heart is often hardened towards God.

**Memory Verse:** Eph 4:18b

The hardness of fallen man's heart is the source of the darkness in his understanding and the vanity of his mind.

Our heart is impenetrable, so God's word cannot get into us.

Ezek. 3:7 says, "But the house of Israel will not hearken unto thee; for they will not hearken unto Me: for all the house of Israel are impudent" (KJV footnote says: stiff of forehead and hard of heart), "and hardhearted."

Ezek. 11:19 shows that God desires man to be restored to his proper condition: "And I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh." [In this lesson, this verse and the next one both give fallen men a ray of hope for getting out of his hopeless state.]

Ezek. 36:26 "A new heart also will I give to you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh."

By nature we disregard God's law in our hearts, ignoring our conscience which is our guide. Thus:

Rom. 2:5 says, "But according to your hardness and impenitent heart, treasure up to yourself wrath in the day and revelation of the righteous judgment of God." (Rec.)

Mark 16:14m "...He reproached their unbelief and hardness of heart" (see also Mark 6:52 and Matt. 13:15)

Eph. 4:18b says, "...estranged from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart." (Rec.)

Mark 3:5 says, "And looking around at them with anger, being greatly grieved at the hardness of their heart..."

Acts 19:9 says, "But when some were hardened and disobeyed...He withdrew from them."

In the following verses, once again we find the Lord fully desires that man would turn his heart back to God.

Psalms 95:7b-8a, "...Today if you will hear his voice, harden not your heart..."

Psalms 51:17, "the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise."

Proof that our heart is hard is evidenced by:

1. Refusing to obey neither our parents or teachers, nor our own conscience when they speak to us
2. not feeling sorry when we've done something wrong or have offended someone; and refusing to apologize
3. being determined to watch that TV show even though we know we shouldn't
4. not liking to sing the children's hymns but liking the worldly songs.