

## 20230917 THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM IS THE PROBLEM OF THE HEART

Revelation 9:20-21

<sup>20</sup> The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshipping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk.

<sup>21</sup> Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.

**Heart: “leb” – the control center of our inner being**

### Proverbs 4:23

<sup>23</sup> Above all else, guard your **heart**, for everything you do flows from it.

### Jeremiah 17:9-10

<sup>9</sup> The **heart** is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

<sup>10</sup> “I the LORD search the **heart** and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve.”

### Psalm 53:1-3

<sup>1</sup> The fool says in his **heart**, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, and their ways are vile; there is no one who does good.

<sup>2</sup> God looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.

<sup>3</sup> Everyone has turned away, all have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.

The two major characteristics of natural human heart from Jeremiah 17:9

(1) It is deceitful above all things.

(2) It is beyond cure.

Deception

### Ephesians 2:1-2

<sup>1</sup> As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

<sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when **you followed the ways** of this world and **of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.**

The resilient state of human wickedness

### Revelation 6:15-17

<sup>15</sup> Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains.

<sup>16</sup> They called to the mountains and the rocks, “**Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!**”

<sup>17</sup> For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?”

### Psalm 53:1-3

<sup>1</sup> The fool says in his **heart**, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, and their ways are vile; there is no one who does good.

### Increase of severity of the suffering and supernatural plague

### Philippians 2:10-11

<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### Revelation 9:1

<sup>1</sup> The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that **had fallen** from the sky to the earth. **The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss.**

### Revelation 9:16-19

<sup>16</sup> The number of the mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand. I heard their number.

<sup>17</sup> The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses

resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur.

<sup>18</sup> A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths.

<sup>19</sup> The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury.

### **No repentance even at the face of death**

#### **Revelation 9:20-21**

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<sup>21</sup> Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.

### **Application**

The cross of Christ: Our old heart is gone forever and made it possible to have a new heart. Jesus has done it already and we are called to believe this truth.

We are saved by grace through faith. Believe the truth and live in it!