

TITLE AND NUMBER: 67. A new heart



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Jeremiah 17: 7-10

But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit. The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve.

LOOKING FURTHER: Matthew 7:13-14; Philippians 4:4-7; Ezekiel 36:26

What does this Bible passage tell us?

The Bible presents us with two choices. Follow God, trust Him and make Him the centre of our lives, or ignore God and trust in our own understanding with ourselves at the centre. Jesus spoke of two roads, one leading to life and the other to destruction (Matthew 7:13-14).

Jeremiah describes people who trust in God as 'blessed'. They have a deep-seated happiness and contentment. Not that everything is easy. Christians may have problems because they follow God rather than pleasing themselves or friends and family. But in tough times God helps them. Philippians 4:7 says that in the hardest times, Christians know the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding.

Jeremiah also warns about trusting ourselves and not God. Many people have an approach to life that makes sense to them. They can justify - at least to themselves - their life choices. But Jeremiah warns us that our hearts can deceive us, leading us astray, so we can make bad decisions that hurt ourselves and others.

But there is always hope with God. Ezekiel 36:26 tells us when we make the choice to follow God, He will give us a new heart.

Reflections:

- Think about the picture of the tree planted by the water. How can we put strong roots deep down into the Word of God?
- Philippians 4:7 mentions the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding. What are the four things we need to do (Philippians 4:4-6) to experience that peace?
- Ezekiel 36:26 speaks about a heart of stone and a heart of flesh. The heart of stone is hard and cold towards God, the heart of flesh is warm and alive. What does Hebrews 8: 7-13 tell us about the heart of flesh?

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

