The Bible Heart
Acts 8:21

Introduction:

A. We hear a lot about heart-felt religion.
   1. Hold hand over chest and speak of what they feel.
   2. No reasoning from the scriptures can overcome that feeling.
B. We need to understand the Bible heart and its place in our religion.
   1. It is the source of sinful actions (Matt. 15:19).
   2. It is involved in obedience to God (Rom. 6:17).
   3. It is involved in service to God (2 Cor. 9:7; Eph. 5:19).
C. We will notice the nature of the heart and its role in salvation.

Discussion:

I. The Nature of the Heart.
A. It includes the intellect.
   1. It thinks – “As he thinketh in his heart, so is he” (Prov. 23:7)
   2. It reasons - “Why reason ye these things in your hearts” (Mk. 2:8)
   3. It understands – “…understand with their heart..” (Matt 13:15)
   4. It believes – “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness.” (Rom. 10:10).
B. It includes the emotions.
   1. It despises – “She despised him in her heart” (2 Sam. 6:16).
   2. It desires – “My hearts desire...” (Rom. 10:1)
   3. It loves – “Thou shalt love the lord thy god with all thine heart” (Matt. 22:37).
   4. It trusts – “Trust in the lord with all thine heart..” (Prov. 3:5).
C. It includes the will.
   1. It decrees or determines – “Hath decreed in his heart to keep his virgin..” (1 Cor. 7:37).
   2. It intends – “…discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Heb. 4:12)
   3. It purposes – “As a man purposes in his heart...” (2 Cor. 9:7).
   4. It obeys – “.. ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine. (Rom. 6:17).
D. It includes the conscience (1 John 3:20, 21)

II. The Role of the Heart in Salvation.
A. The heart is purified in the new birth (1 Pet. 1:22-23)
B. The intellect is changed by evidence.
   1. Belief is based on evidence (Rom. 10:17; John 20:31).
   2. Thomas believed after examining evidence (John 20:24-29).
C. The emotions are changed by believing the evidences.
   1. What one learns about Jesus produces love for him.
   2. What one learns of God produces trust.
D. The will is changed by motives produced by faith.
   2. Disobedient hearts changed by faith in:
      a. The goodness of God (Rom. 2:4).
      b. Faith in the promised rewards of obedience (Heb. 5:9).
      c. Faith in the threatened rewards for disobedience (Rev. 20:15)
E. The conscience is changed by faith in having done right.
   1. One understands God’s will, believes and obeys it (1 Pet. 3:21)
   2. Conscience does not condemn until one believes he has done wrong. (cf. Acts 23:1)

Conclusion:

A. Salvation begins with the intellect, then involves other parts of the heart.
B. “Heart-felt religion” and emotionalism – Starts with emotions and blinds intellect.