

NEWS AND VIEWS
MOUNT OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH
3500 Edwards Mill Road
Raleigh, North Carolina 27612-5362

Phone...(919) 787-1910
FAX...(919) 787-0085
E-mail: office@mobc.org
Web Page: www.mobc.org

**“Southern Baptists with the Full
Gospel for the Whole World”**

SAM GORE, Senior Pastor
EDITH JACKSON, Prayer Coordinator

NANCY MCBRAYER, Office Manager
MIKE KING, Maintenance Supervisor

VOLUME 34

February 2012

NUMBER 2

You have heard that it was said, YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY; but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Matthew 5:27-28)

February is a time when things of the heart are considered...so consider the following:

Not too long ago, a local hospital's TV commercials made the claim that it was one of the best hospitals in the nation to take a broken heart. A guy who reminded us of the singer Hank Williams sang about the heart condition. The goal is that the viewing audience will remember that there is hope for a bad heart condition. Surely a heart catheterization is an amazing medical procedure. A small camera is inserted through one of the blood vessels and actually gives the medical people an up close look at any blockages or life threatening conditions...all the way to the heart. If there is trouble in the heart, then the remedy is to create a new heart condition. The plan is to change the deadly heart condition into one that is not life threatening.

The adulterous heart leads to an early death. The death of a marriage, a childhood, a career, or a trustworthy character can start with adulterous thoughts. Desire disorder is a deadly contagion. Sin kills. Jesus said that what you think about can be the beginning of what you do. An adulterous heart will lead to death in our spiritual growth. Requirement for a healthy heart condition is exercise. Consider the spiritual application. The psalmist knew this remedy. Psalms 51:10 says: *“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”* This was King David's repentant cry to God. After David's affair with Bathsheba and arranging to have her husband killed, God brought judgment upon the house of David. His children died, raped, and murdered one another. David himself became a target of one of his son's treachery. Now David was “a man after God's heart.” He was someone who enjoyed the favor of God. So if David could fall, we certainly can too.

Often we can't help the first adulterous thought. It's what we do next that shows the intent of the heart. Perhaps you have been looking at someone else lately when you should have been focused elsewhere. Maybe you are already trapped in the sin of adultery. Sin's damage and corruption destroys people's lives, even those who never had any part in committing the act. Is there any recovery? Is there any protection from the many things that come before our eyes, tempting us in ways we can't seem to resist? Our disordered desire must be brought to God.

There is forgiveness. Trust can be rebuilt, and it glorifies God to restore those who have fallen. But the better way is to learn how to avoid paying a price higher than you would have ever dreamed it would cost. Psalms 101:3 reflect the repentant David: *I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart. I will set no worthless thing before my eyes;* David learned the hard way that our heart condition is dependent upon the way we look at things. Let's share some valuable observations today about the way we look at others. Sometimes the first look, the first thought, the first fantasy seems so harmless. But know that the heart is desperately wicked. And sometimes we follow it. Don't go there. There is hope for the bad heart condition. But only the Spirit of God changes the heart of man. Think about God when you know you're thinking so wrong. Some thoughts:

NOT EVERYTHING WE SEE IS WORTH HAVING...NOT EVERYTHING WE SEE IS GOOD FOR THE HEART...INTEGRITY IN THE HEART LEADS TO LIFE...ADULTERY IN THE HEART IS A LIFE-THREATENING CONDITION.

Take a good look at your life...through the lens of the Word of God...
A good look is a look from God's perspective.

Blessings to you,
Pastor Sam