

Good morning! Have you ever had to make a difficult choice? All of us have, at one time or another, had to make a choice regarding what path to take. One of the most common things people say to us when we are trying to make important life-decisions like this is, "Hey, just follow your heart". You've heard that, right? That sounds really good, as though you already have the information within you and are just trying to draw it out. Many "successful" people have used this method---but is that a good idea? You may find yourself in just such a position right now. Does the Bible have anything to say about it? Yes! This morning, let's take a few moments together to consider it, as we read these words from the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah:

The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? But I, the Lord, search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve.

Jer. 17:9-10

How about that? This passage doesn't sound like I ought to follow my own heart at all! The clear teaching of the Bible is that our hearts are very undependable. It's not just that they don't actually contain the knowledge we need; it's much worse than that. Our hearts aren't just uninformative---they actually seek to deceive us. Why? Because, as the prophet says, they are desperately wicked. This idea of following our hearts comes from a kind of self-sufficiency never promoted in scripture. The human heart exalts itself against God's rule. John Calvin called the human heart an idol factory, and so it is. Our hearts, desperately wicked as they are, will not lead us where God wants us to go. In today's passage. God tells us that He searches our hearts. He examines our motives. He knows the deceptions that lie there, promoting themselves as dependable wisdom and guidance. This morning you may have a difficult choice to make. Let me encourage you to not follow your heart. Seek the Lord. Call upon Him. Seek to know what God wants you to do, not what you would like to do for yourself. The answer will come. It may require sacrifice or hardship but it will come...if you seek the Lord!