

KEEPING

By Keith Greer

Let's briefly examine three things we should "**keep.**"

Keep thy heart. "*Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.*" {Proverbs 4:23} Man's heart is his mind. When a person secures his heart and controls what he places in it, he takes control of his actions. All words, thoughts, and actions proceed from the heart. Please read *Matthew 15:18-20*. Whatever has control of our minds has control over our actions. It's of great importance to put the proper things into one's mind!

Keep yourselves pure. "*Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure.*" {1 Timothy 5:22} God demands that we live pure lives. We accomplish this when we seek to maintain purity in our lives by following God's instructions for righteous living. The Christian must strive every day to keep his heart and body pure from sin that defiles both the body and the mind.

Keep yourselves in the love of God. "*Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*" {Jude 21} How does one stay in "the love of God"? "*And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment. Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.*" {1 John 3:22-24} We show love for God by faithfully obeying His commands {John 14:15}. To keep ourselves in the "love of God," we must pattern our lives after the Master's life. A close examination of the Lord's life will show us how to correctly love God, our brethren, His law, and others. This clearly shows that our lives as Christians must always exhibit God's character-true LOVE!

Keep on keeping on. Finally, we need to preserve and continually maintain our walk with our God. We reap if we faint not, Galatians 6:9. God never said it would always be easy or convenient to serve Him – but ultimately it will bring us a wonderful reward in the end! ***