INTRODUCTION - "A HEART THAT DEVISES WICKED IMAGINATIONS"

1. "A HEART" - the center of intellectual activity; the mind; thoughts and emotions. (Hebrews 4:12) "... the thoughts and intents of the heart"

W.E. Vine: "the word came to stand for man's entire mental and moral activity, both the rational and emotional elements. In other words, the heart is used figuratively for the hidden springs of personal life."

(Proverbs 4:23) "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life"

"Watch your thoughts, for they become words. Watch your words, for they become actions. Watch your actions, for they become habits. Watch your habits, for they become character. Watch your character, for it becomes your destiny." - author unknown

(Jeremiah 4:14, 17:9-10; Matthew 15:19)

2. "THAT DEVISES"

"Devises" - invents; plots; plans; contrives; figures out; formulates; schemes.

(Psalm 36:3-4) "The words of his mouth are wickedness and deceit; he has ceased to be wise and do good. He devises wickedness on his bed, he sets himself in a way that is not good, he does not abhor evil."

(Micah 2:1) "Woe to those who devise iniquity and work out evil on their bed. At morning light they practice it"

(Proverbs 6:14) "... He devises evil continually" - implies that the wicked has a back-up plan when his first devise fails.

3. "WICKED IMAGINATIONS"

"Wicked" - evil; bad in character and thoughts; naughty; maltreat and mistreat.

(Proverbs 15:26) "The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the Lord" Jeremiah writes about wicked thoughts and actions: (3:17, 7:24, 11:8, 16:12, 18:11-12)

4. "IMAGINATIONS"

"Imaginations" - a reasoning; a thought; a thinking over; to ponder; to have in mind; to practice as a result of devising or planning; it proceeds to imitation.

(James 1:14-15) describes the sequence.

Jesus did not escape it: (Mark 11:18, 14:1; John 11:53) Other examples: (Gen. 6:5; Psalm 10:2-3; Proverbs 12:20; Romans 1:21-22)

CLOSE: (Proverbs 23:7) "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he" (1 Chronicles 28:9) " ... for the Lord searches all hearts ... "