THE HARDENED HEART

. And Pharaoh said, Who *is* the Lord, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go. Ex 5:2 (KJV)

 It is amazing how easy it is to develop a hard heart, most of the time our heart has already become hard before we realize we have an issue. Do you recall in days gone by an illness that older people would sometimes get called hardening of the arteries? Often times no one had an idea they had this problem until they started getting confused or forgetful. Fortunately, the Bible tells us what causes a hardened heart. I am sure that Pharaoh would not have intentionally wanted to help us out but he left us an example of what to do if you want a hardened heart.

 If you want a hardened heart then you need to resist God’s will. Pharaoh’s attitude was an “I will not” attitude. I have heard men that were resisting the call to preach say that they reached a point where it was either preach or die. What they said was very true because even if they did not die physically they certainly would have dried up from a cold, calloused heart. Doing God’s will and being in God’s will gives a believer great joy. For the unbeliever it is God’s will for you to be saved. When we first receive or feel that call it is quite uncomfortable. So the natural thing to do is avoid any circumstance that would help that call be enhanced in any way. Things such as church services, Christian friends talking about church, someone witnessing to you, all will enhance the feeling of God’s call to salvation in your heart. The more you avoid these situations the more your heart hardens. The more you endure these events the harder your heart becomes.

 If you want a hardened heart you should be proud and stubborn. Pharaoh again gives an example of this. When God turned the river to blood and the people had no drinking water and the fish were dying, the king in Exodus 7:23 just turned his back on the problem and went into his house. Time and time again people turn their back on salvation and walk out the church doors not knowing that each time they do their heart is getting harder and harder.

 Taking advantage of God’s goodness without a change of heart will lead to a harder heart. Exodus 8:15 shows Pharaoh’s reaction after God gave them relief from the frogs.  But when Pharaoh saw that there was respite, he hardened his heart, and hearkened not unto them; as the Lord had said. Ex 8:15 (KJV). Often people think because they have rejected God and he has not struck them dead that they are okay and have all of life ahead to make a change. All they are doing is feeding a hardened heart. Their heart that was calloused is becoming like stone and the heart that was like stone is becoming a heart of iron.

 Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts as in the day of provocation. Heb. 3:15.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram