



SET YOUR AFFECTIONS

“SET YOUR MIND ON THINGS ABOVE,
NOT ON THINGS ON THE EARTH.”

Colossians 3:2 NKJV



Hairstyles go in and out of style. Sometimes the look is sleek and shiny. Sometimes it's a sporty wash-n-wear look. There've been shags and pageboys, twists and flips, Afros and cornrows. There are French twists and French braids. Poodle perms and ponytails. Beehives, bouffants, baby bangs and buns. But no matter the current rage, there are always those of us who wish our hair had a little more bounce. We long for curls!

Now there are a lot of ways to get curls, and most involve some version of the curler. There are hot rollers and sponge rollers. There are bristly rollers that are just awful to sleep on. Then you've got



CLEARING + THE + COBWEBS

Do you have any pictures of yourself that are embarrassing to you now because of the way you were styling your hair at the time they were taken?





Every day we must renew our minds. I don't think God means do not plan, do not look forward to days to come. I believe He means that right now is the only opportunity we have to live for Him.

Thelma Wells

your pin curls and your rag curls. There are perm rods and pink snappies. Some of us like the crimped look of hair that's been braided, then brushed out. But no matter what method you use, the concept is the same. The hair is wrapped around the curler. With time (and perhaps a little heat), the hair begins to change its ways. Instead of being its old straight self, it conforms itself to the shape of the curler. When the time comes to unwind, your hair has a whole new look. Spirals, ringlets, soft waves—curls!

Well, we need to set more than our hair. We need to set our hearts!

1. Psalm 78:8 gives us an example of those who have their hearts set, but not properly.

“And may not be like their fathers, A _____ and _____ generation, A generation that did not _____ its _____, And whose _____ was not _____ to God.”—Psalm 78:8 NKJV

2. If we are to set our heart aright, we mustn't follow the example of those “whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things” (Phil. 3:19 NKJV).

- Solomon insists that ignorance is not bliss. What do the simple love in Proverbs 1:22?



- Ezekiel doesn't hold with those whose walk doesn't match their talk. What do the people in Ezekiel 33:31 have their hearts set on?
- Jesus berated those who liked to impress others with their religious fervor. What do the hypocrites love according to Matthew 6:5?
- Dressing up in your finest clothes and trading the latest gossip won't endear you to the Father. What does Mark 12:38 warn us against?
- There cannot be real love where people wear masks. What does Paul say can have no part in our love for one another?



3. We like to have positive role-models-mentors. And Scripture is filled with positive instruction — “do this,” “pursue this,” “choose this.” But we can learn just as much from Scripture’s negative examples if we are teachable. These verses warn us from setting our affections on the wrong things. Match up these below.

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| ___ Psalm 4:2 | a. Do not love the best places and best seats. |
| ___ Psalm 62:10 | b. Do not love to wander on unrestrained feet. |
| ___ Proverbs 17:19 | c. Do not love this present world. |
| ___ Proverbs 20:13 | d. Do not love transgression. |
| ___ Ecclesiastes 5:10 | e. Do not love oppression. |
| ___ Jeremiah 14:10 | f. Do not love sleep. |
| ___ Hosea 12:7 | g. Do not love the praise of men. |
| ___ Zechariah 8:17 | h. Do not set your heart on riches. |
| ___ Matthew 23:6 | i. Do not love the world and the things of the world. |
| ___ John 12:43 | j. Do not love worthlessness or seek falsehood. |
| ___ 1 Timothy 6:10 | k. Do not love a false oath. |
| ___ 2 Timothy 4:10 | l. Do not love silver, for it will not satisfy. |
| ___ 1 John 2:15 | m. Do not love money, it is the root of all evil. |

4. So what should we set our hearts on according to Deuteronomy 32:46?



5. What does the first part of 1 Chronicles 22:19 urge Solomon to do?

*Now set your heart and
your soul to seek the
LORD your God.*

1 Chronicles 22:19a NKJV

*H*ave you ever noticed that once you've set your hair, you have to be very careful with it in order to maintain the set? We're talking heavy-duty hair spray. You'll need scarves for windy days. Don't even think about riding in a convertible! And if there's rain in the forecast, you'd better plan on staying in! Of course, once you sleep on that hair, it reverts to bed-head no matter what you might do. So the next day, you have to start all over again. You have to reset the hair.

The same is true with setting your heart. You can't expect to set your heart one time and have it last for months on end. Give things a day or two and you're looking at proverbial bed-head. We need to continually set our hearts on God's Word. We need to daily set our heart and soul to seek God. We need to set and reset.



6. Setting our hearts requires conviction, determination, and some good old-fashioned stick-to-itiveness. Repetition is also a good thing. How did Paul encourage Timothy to stay on the right track? The admonition was important enough to repeat it in two of his letters —1 Timothy 6:11 and 2 Timothy 2:22.

7. Have you ever considered that there are role models in Scripture for heart-setting? Check out what the angel said to one of our favorite prophets in Daniel 10:12.

8. Let's take a quick peek at one of those Deuteronomy passages again. Fill in the two key words.

"For if you _____ all these commandments which I command you to do . . ." —Deuteronomy 11:22 NKJV



9. Setting your heart, setting your affections, setting your mind—it all means keeping on with what is right. What does Jude 1:21 tell us about keeping ourselves?

DIGGING DEEPER

Setting our hearts is something we will do with great frequency for the rest of our lives here on earth. We're in this for the long haul! What does the psalmist compare such a setting to in Psalm 84:5? Why is this comparison apt?

PONDER & PRAY

None of us likes a "bad hair day" any more than we do a "bad heart day." Let your prayers in the week ahead be filled with heart-setting. Ask the Lord to show you what preparations you need to make in your own heart for the journey ahead of you. Pray for stick-to-itiveness and endurance for the storms ahead, which often make our resolve go limp. God will honor our efforts and give us the strength we need to live as we should.



TRINKET TO TREASURE

Your trinket for the week could be nothing else but a curler. Keep it handy, and every time you look at it, you can remember that more than your hair needs setting. Our affections must be set on things above. Our hearts must be set to understand the Word. We need to set our hearts to seek the Lord. If you don't take the time to set everything properly, you will find yourself having a "bad hair day" in your heart.

† NOTES & PRAYER REQUESTS †
