



Me: Rollie, let's get right to it, shall we? Are the thoughts and intents of your heart continually evil?

Rollie: Yes sir, that describes me perfectly, and that comes from Genesis 6:5, right?

Me: Well, it's nice to know you know your Bible so well. What else do you know to be true about your heart, Rollie?

Rollie: Hmmm – well, I know my heart's deceitful and desperately wicked. Experience with other folks taught me that for a certainty, but then you told me that the Bible taught it too.

Me: Yep, that is Jeremiah 17:9. Don't you just love that expression, "desperately wicked", it's so expressive?

Rollie: No, sir. I don't like it at all, likely because it's my heart, as it is now, we are talking about. You can say your heart was once desperately wicked, but now God has changed your heart.

Me: My, you are so astute! I am born again, so my inclinations, by grace, are changed, but I am all too well aware that the remnants of my old nature remain. It remains, but it doesn't reign, thank God.

Rollie: One thing I regret, at times, is my being a good Bible student. I had such high hopes for my own righteousness, then you preached on Romans, Chapter 3, and my hopes were dashed.

Me: Ah, you are referring, likely, to "no one does good, no not one", right?

Rollie: Exactly, and the capper came when you read, "there is no fear of God before their eyes". In an instant I knew that all three of us, you, me, and God knew me as I was. I was embarrassed that you knew, frightened that God did, and I sighed. That I knew myself better was not a joy to me.

Me: I remember the blood drained from your cheeks. Let us turn this talk to another truth. Do you recognize that you're a captive of Satan? You are, as Satan might say, Satan's goods.