



**Teaching Notes:** Ray Davis  
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## HOW PEOPLE CHANGE

### “The Big Picture”

The Bible is the story of God’s cosmic redemption of all mankind through His Son Jesus Christ. Seeing the big picture avoids the fatal flaw of turning the Bible into a self-help or how-to manual.

**THE BIG PICTURE:** It is not a set of directions, but an aerial view of daily life that informs, motivates, convicts, and guides us.

**Jeremiah 17:5-14**

**1) HEAT.** This is the person’s situation in daily life, with difficulties, blessings, and temptations.

*[v8] “...when heat comes...in a year of drought...”*

**2) THORNS.** This is the person’s ungodly response to the situation. It includes behavior, the heart driving the behavior, and the consequences that result.

*[v6] “He is like a thorn bush in the wasteland.”*

**3) CROSS.** This focuses on God in His redemptive glory and love. Through Christ, He brings comfort, cleansing, and the power to change.

*[v7] “But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.”*

**4) FRUIT.** This is the person’s new godly response to the situation resulting from God’s power at work in the heart.

It includes behavior, the heart renewed by grace, and the harvest of consequences that follow.

*[v8] He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”*

**USING THE BIG PICTURE:**

1 Cor. 10:1-13 (Numbers 11-14)

**1) HEAT:** Like Israel’s experiences in the wilderness we all live under the heat of trial this side of heaven (vv6 & 11).

**2) THORNS:** Israel’s ungodly response to the heat: idolatry, pagan revelry, sexual immorality, testing the Lord, and grumbling (vv5-10). This evil behavior came from a heart set on evil things (v6). The consequences: bodies scattered over the desert (v5), in one day twenty three thousand of them died (v8), killed by snakes (v9), killed by the destroying angel (v10).

**3) CROSS:** God’s presence, power, protection and provision through the wilderness (vv1-4).

**4) FRUIT:** Paul is telling his readers to embrace Christ (v11-14). To see how privileged they are to live in full view of the coming of the Messiah and the blessings that are ours through Him (v11). New heart of humble self-examination (v12). New behavior of resolve to stand up under temptation (v13).

2 Cor. 1:2-12

**1) HEAT:** Troubles in life (vv4-7 General). Pressure beyond our ability to endure (vv8-10 Specific).

**2) THORNS:** Heart = Self trust (v9). Behavior = Fear of death (v8) Consequences = no comfort, no use.

**3) CROSS:** God’s comfort in Christ (vv2-4). God raises the dead (v9). Prayer of fellow Christians (v11). God’s immediate deliverance (v10).

**4) FRUIT:** Heart = trust in God (v9). Behavior = visible praise and joy (v3). Wise, effective counsel (vv4, 6). Endurance (v6) Consequences = witness for Christ and comfort to others.

### WHAT’S THE BIG PICTURE IN YOUR LIFE?

**1) HEAT:** (What is your situation?)

**2) THORNS:** (How do you react? What do you want and believe?)

**3) CROSS:** (Who is God and what does He say and do in Christ?)

**4) FRUIT:** (How is God calling me to seek Him in repentance and faith?)

**Next Weekend:** “HEAT” (What is your situation?) James 1:1-18



For Growing Notes pick up a How People Change  
Workbook or download it here at [dbcc.com](http://dbcc.com)