

The Secrets of the Heart

Daniel Webster (1782 – 1852) was United States Secretary of State on two occasions, 1841 to 1843 and 1850 to his death in 1852. He also served as a senator from Massachusetts. As one of the nation's best-known conservatives, he worked hard to see the Union preserved in days leading up to the Civil War.

A man of religious faith, Webster was a member of the Episcopal Church. An interesting incident gives a peek into his beliefs.

The oldest sister of Daniel Webster was married to John Colby, who was considered the most wicked, godless man in his neighborhood when it came to swearing and impiety. Then news came to Webster that there was a change in Colby. Webster decided to call on Colby to see if it was true.

On entering his sister's home, he noticed a large-print Bible opened on a table. Colby had been reading it before he answered Webster's knock on the door.

The first question Colby asked him was, "Are you a Christian?"

When Colby was assured of Webster's faith, he suggested that they kneel together and pray.

After the visit, Webster told a friend, "I would like to hear what enemies of religion say of Colby's conversion. Here was a man as unlikely to be a Christian as any I ever saw; and he had gone his godless way until now, with old age and habits hard to change! Yet see him – a penitent, trusting, humble believer! Nothing short of the grace of Almighty God."

That story provides a striking lesson for us today. The fruit of our faith is always found in our behavior. We cannot hide what we believe, or don't believe.

Our actions will always give away the secrets of our hearts.

At the start of each new day, as we consider what lies before us, we should be very mindful of this important truth.

The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him (Matthew 12:35 NIV).

– Beecher Hunter