

As He Thinketh In His Heart

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Matthew 9:4 And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?

John 16:2 They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.

1 Corinthians 14:37-38 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.

1 Corinthians 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

2 Corinthians 3:5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

2 Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Romans 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

- I. The way or manner in which we think and reason affects our life and our destiny.
 - A. Do you ever consider the way you think?
 1. Not so much WHAT you think, but the WAY you think; the way you process thoughts.
 2. Does the way you think cause you problems often?
 3. Does the way you think frustrate others around you?
 4. Are you, or someone else, having to fix messes often that are the result of the way you think?
 5. Does the way you think cause you to feel foolish often?
 - B. We make our choices based upon what and how we think and reason.
 1. No one makes a choice without thinking about it first.
 2. Their thinking may be quick and shallow with no look to the future, but they do think about it.
 3. Another may think long and deep about it, but because his reasoning has been built upon worldly wisdom and philosophy instead of God and his Word he will make the choices that lead him to destruction.
 - C. Our choices have eternal consequences.
 - D. Our choices have external consequences (they affect others).
 - E. Our choices have internal consequences (they affect our own self).
 - F. And they will lead us to other things that will further affect our thinking.
 - G. The WAY we think is influenced greatly by who we are around, especially when we are young, but it can also be influenced very much when we are older, too.
 - H. The WAY we think have a lot to do with what we accept as true and what we regard as false.

- II. People in this generation do not think and reason in the same manner as their ancestors.
 - A. The world has become insane – sound thinking and reasoning is rejected by the people of this generation.
 - B. This was accomplished by an intelligent power that set about to change the way people think a long time ago.

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

- C. You cannot change the facts when people can see and hear and read what is written down in history.
 - 1. The only way that you can get them to turn away from truth is to change the way they think and reason.
- D. The devil has accomplished this in a spectacular way in this generation.
 - 1. For example, the guy who said it was not fair for God to create him without his consent and then send him to eternal punishment if he did not accept God as his savior. (???)
- E. God is the basis for all sound thinking and understanding.

Psalms 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.

Colossians 2:3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Proverbs 2:6 For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

- 1. Remove or replace God as the source of wisdom and understanding and you have changed the manner of thinking and reasoning.
 - a) Evolution; strange gods and false religions.
- 2. Add to God something else as a source of wisdom and understanding and you have changed the reasoning of people.
 - a) Education; experience; worldly wisdom; some wise man.
- 3. Or simply “forget” what you have known to be true and right, by filling your mind with so much information about so many things.

- III. The mind is the battlefield where the devil wages his warfare.
 - A. He could never win your heart with the truth about sin and rebellion against God.
 - 1. So he lies ...and works to deceive and blind your mind.

2 Corinthians 3:14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

- 2. If he can influence your thinking and reasoning he will steal your heart away from God and blind your mind so that you cannot understand.
- B. The striving that we must do is in our mind ...and we MUST strive if we are to have any hope of avoiding defeat at the hands of the devil.

1. Is my reasoning based solely upon God and his Word – for real?
2. Or is my thinking polluted with worldly wisdom and philosophy, or even the theology of men?
3. Does my reasoning include the whole of things?
4. Does everything fit together in the whole of God's Will and design, according to his written Word?
5. If it does not fit together so that you can read and study the word of God freely without running into conflicts, contradictions, and problems then it is probably a wrong view of things.

IV. God asks some questions repeatedly in his Word about our thinking.

Matthew 18:12 How think ye?

- A. HOW we process information and put things together in our mind.
1. This is visible in how we do things outwardly.

Matthew 21:28 But what think ye?

- B. WHAT we are in the habit of thinking about has a lot to do with the HOW we think.

Matthew 9:4 Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?

- C. WHY we think about the things we think about, and why do we think and reason the way we do.

James 4:5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, ...?

- D. Do we care what the Bible says about any subject, or do we just think and imagine what we want things to be like?

Romans 2:3 And thinkest thou this, O man,... that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?

- E. Does the fact that we are going to stand before God and be judged have any bearing on how or what we think about?

Matthew 22:42 What think ye of Christ? whose son is he?

- F. WHAT we think of Christ is going to have much influence on HOW we think about everything else, and also on WHAT we think about.
- G. The doctrines we embrace and put up for our spiritual guideposts better be sound and easily proven from Scripture without wresting words and verses.
- H. We need to put a guard in the place where all our problems begin, and that place is our mind and the way we think, reason, and process information.
1. That guard is grace and truth, which is what came by Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

2. We are to arm ourselves with the right kind of mind:

1 Peter 4:1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: