

I want to speak tonight on our **imagination!** Our minds are **very important!** Our mind **defines** us! Our minds make us **unique** from the animals! God gave us our minds to **distinguish** us from all His other **creatures!** No other ‘animal’ has the **type** of mind that we humans have! The **use** of our mind can **affect** us greatly!

Why is it that when we **read a book** and then go and see the **film** (because the book was so good), most people say ‘Oh, the book was **better?** **Why?** Because in the book we **used** our **imagination** – in the way **we wanted** to **think** about the thing!! Our imagination **made** the **difference** between the book and the film! Imagination is a **gift** from God – to **help** us! We are God’s **image-bearers.** God **invented** the imagination to be an **asset** for human-kind!

Our imagination can create a great **future** for us! It has built **businesses** and **empires!!** How many young men have not **scored** a **great goal** for Scotland in the world cup? How many young girls have not married the most handsome man in the universe? How many of us have not ‘**dreamed**’ of great things – and then come crashing down to earth, to **reality?** All of us – because we are all made in the image of God – only that God has the **power** to fulfil!

Children have a great capacity for imagining things! Listen to them playing with their **toys!** No one **taught** them to think that the chest was a **horse;** or the stick is a **gun;** it was **natural** to them! (Story wee boy who drew a country scene – with a face in the sky! ‘What’s that?’ ‘That’s God’ ‘Oh, but no one knows what God looks like!’ ‘Well, they will after I’m finished with this picture!’)

Imagination can do wonderful things for us, it can lift us out of **depression!** It took Asaph out of depression here – what a sad person he is when he wrote this “*my soul refuses to be comforted I am so troubled I cannot speak*” but ends “*What god is great like our God? You are the God that works wonders*” [2,13] But his imagination was **properly focussed, directed** and **shaped** by God!

Imagination – a **wonderful gift** from God! But.....

OUR IMAGINATION CAN BE DANGEROUS!

Ever since the Fall, our imagination can and has done us great **harm**. Bible = “*The Lord knows the thoughts of man, that they are vanity”[Psa 95:11] The Eph Xns were “*alienated and hostile in mind”[Col 1:21] The world was not old when “*every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually”[Gen 6:5]***

Why does God appeal: “*let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts”[Isa 55:7]? Because our thoughts **make** is **do** terrible things! The wicked “*He plots trouble while on his bed; he sets himself in a way that is not good”[Psa36:4]**

It is actually our **minds** that are at the **root** of all our misdeeds! Our minds need to be **changed!** “*be transformed by the renewal of your mind”[Rm12:2] and “*to be renewed in the spirit of your minds”[Eph 4:23] “*put on the new self which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator” [Col3:10]***

IMAGINATION and TECHNOLOGY

Lets look at how our imagination has been affected by technology. **Books** are a wonderful technology for communication! We enjoy reading because of our imagination is being applied to the words we read. You **cannot read** if you have **no imagination!** Then **Radio** is a new technology. Again we have to use our imagination as we listen and from in **our own** minds what we are hearing!

Then there was **Pictures** and **Theatre** which gives us a **visual** of what the author intends us to imagine. **Our** imagination is now being **formed** by the author in another **dimension!** He is **controlling** our mind up to a point! He is **leading** us much more into what **he wants** us to imagine about his thoughts. If we are looking at a picture or a play of something we have already heard or read, we have to make some **adjustments** to our **own original** thoughts on the subject to continue following the story!

Then of course there is **TV/Film/Video/DVD** –which really does **completely control** our version of the subject! We do not have to

do any ‘work’ in interpreting or ‘making-a-picture’ of what is happening – the writer/film director has done it all for us! **APP** That is why watching TV/Film is so **relaxing!** We **don’t** have to **think**. But we are ‘**locked**’ into the author’s understanding!

With the advent of technology, we have **ceased** to **think** and use our imagination as much as we used to think! We are ‘**confined**’ to author’s view and interpretation of events and also - how **he wants us** to see and interpret the things he is portraying! In a way, film-makers **manipulates** the minds of their audience!

Also TV?Films/Video/DVD have a **more powerful impact** on our minds addressing **both** our ears and eyes at the same time. So the ‘author’ is able to communicate ‘his version’ of his subject leaving us **more vulnerable** to what **he** wants to communicate to us!

Be assured, I am **not** against watching films, etc, on the contrary. Films are a wonderful invention. But like all other things, can, in the wrong hands, be used to manipulate and pervert truth! That is why, some people only know a film’s **adapted version** of some events in **history!** (Some of the films about historical events have been greatly adapted!) But those who have never read about Jesus in the NT may **only know** ‘The Da Vinci Code’ version of Jesus? It is because **our own** imagination on what God has said in Scripture has been **sabotaged** in the sense that we are ‘locked into’ what the director and producer want to convey to us! Technology has had a great **effect** on **how**, and **what**, people **think!**

Actually our imagination should, with the years be **developing** from its childhood dreams, to **mature** imaginations, **realistic** imaginations. God **intended** our imagination to play a far greater part of our adult life than it does – because human nature, is now **much more lazy** since the Fall! The ‘world’ has done something to our imagination. It not only has **corrupted** it, but it has taken a **back seat** – it has made us **lazy** and **allowed** others to think for us!

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

How can we **improve** the situation. First, regarding **content** – God

has given us **His Word** in **writing** for a very good reason! So we can think of **important things** – not **unrealistic trivia**! The Bible deals with the things that are **vital** to our eternal happiness! It deals with the **great issues** of life and death and eternity! **Why** were we **created**? God gave His written word to **encourage** us! Look.....

First mention of ‘write’ in the Bible we read “*Then the LORD said to Moses, **‘Write** this as a memorial in a **book** and **recite** it in the **ears** of Joshua, that I **will** utterly blot out the **memory** of Amalek from under heaven*” [Ex 17:14]! God has **promised** this! Watch this space! **Place** your minds/thoughts on **this promise** when you go to war! Look at events and history in **the light** of My Promise!

Here are **Ten Rules** (commands) which will make you **prosper**! Write it on **stone** – so it **won’t fade**!! Later “*write it on the table of your **heart***” [Pro 3:3] **Jesus said about Moses “*But **if** you do **not** believe his **writings**, how will you believe my **words**?*” [J 5:47]

Then **Jeremiah** to **re-write** the scroll that was burned by the king!

Regarding the “*words of the prophecy of **this book**...if anyone **adds** to them, God will add to them the **plagues** described in **this book**...and if anyone **takes away** from the words of **the book** of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the **holy city** which are **described** in **this book**” [Rev 22:18] **APP** What does that do to **your** imagination?*

God wants us to **meditate, day/night** on His Word [Jos 1:8 Psa 1] **Dwell** on the **subjects** and **principles** of Bible! **Values/ideals!** **Think good** thoughts! “*Whatever is true...honourable...just...pure...lovely...commendable...anything worthy of praise **think** about **these** things*” [Phil 4:8] Take your principles from Scripture? God is speaking to us there on important subjects! ***God’s view** of what happens after death “*After death the **judgment***”! **God’s view** of **heaven/hell/salvation**, not **Tabloids** view or a **Celebrity** or **philosopher’s view**. Above all we need imagination for **sanctification**! To have a proper view of Christ. To imagine how Jesus would react in such and such a situation! **Fix** your eyes on **Jesus**!