

Morning Sermon July 5, 2015

“Minding Your Mind in a Mad, Crazy, Insane, Sin-infested, Sin-loving World”

Romans 1:28; 8:5-9; 12:2; 15:5-6; 1 Corinthians 2:14-16

I. Realize many minds around you are under the fearful judgment of God –

²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; Romans :1:28 NKJ

^{CEB} Romans 1:28 Since they didn't think it was worthwhile to acknowledge God, God abandoned them to a defective mind to do inappropriate things. (Rom 1:28 CEB)

worthless ways of thinking (Rom 1:28 CJB) God delivered them over to a worthless mind to do what is morally wrong. (Rom 1:28 CSB)

a reprobate mind to practise unseemly things; (Rom 1:28 DBY)

a mind of vainness (Rom 1:28 ETH) immoral minds (Rom 1:28 GWN)

a mind of emptiness (Rom 1:28 MGI) God remanded them over to a degraded mentality for perpetrating perversions. (Rom 1:28 MIT)

God gave them over to a vain mind; that they might do what they ought not, (Rom 1:28 MRD)

undiscerning mind (Rom 1:28 NAB) a depraved mind, (Rom 1:28 NAS)

dirty minds. (Rom 1:28 NIRV) unacceptable thoughts and indecent behaviour. (Rom 1:28 NJB)

foolish thinking (Rom 1:28 NLT)

1. This judgment makes people and nations sub-human, beasts, Satanic, ultimately worse than rabid dogs –

A. God created us in His image, to rule (with wisdom) over creation –

⁵ For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶ You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all *things* under his

feet, ⁷ All sheep and oxen-- Even the beasts of the field, ⁸ The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas. (Psalm 8:5-8 NKJ)

B. Yet, sin makes men, kings and kingdoms like beasts, this is why the Bible often describes ungodly nations in the terminology of animals –

³ "And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other. (Daniel 7:3 NKJ)

"The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings. (Daniel 7:4 NKJ)

⁵ "And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. I (Daniel 7:5 NKJ)

⁶ "After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it. (Daniel 7:6 NKJ)

⁷ "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. (Daniel 7:7 NKJ)

¹⁷ "Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth. (Daniel 7:17 NKJ)

Nebuchadnezzar was made like a beast for seven years -

¹⁶ Let his heart be changed from *that of a man*, Let him be given the heart of a beast, And let seven times pass over him. (Daniel 4:16 NKJ)

³² And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling *shall be* with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses." (Dan 4:32 NKJ)

³⁴ And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom *is* from generation to generation.

³⁵ All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And *among* the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"

³⁶ At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and splendor returned to me. My counselors and nobles resorted to me, I was restored to my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me. ³⁷ Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down. (Daniel 4:34-37 NKJ)

One of the main arguments that men make for homosexuality is animals do it. This argument has even been made in courtrooms. Animals also eat their young ... is that an argument for cannibalism?

2. *All men (human beings) have a tendency to devolve into beasts or worse than beasts because our minds are by nature in opposition to God –*

⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, (Romans 8:5 NKJ)

⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death, (Romans 8:6 NKJ)

¹² There is a way *that seems* right to a man, But its end *is* the way of death. (Proverbs 14:12 NKJ) / (Proverbs 16:25 NKJ)

Headline: ‘Pay me \$1 million and I won’t go through with my plans to have an abortion’

II. *There is also a spiritual mind –*

⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death, **but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.** (Romans 8:6 NKJ)

III. *There are horns but there are also craftsman –*

¹⁶ Therefore thus says the LORD: "I am returning to Jerusalem with mercy; My house shall be built in it," says the LORD of hosts, "And a surveyor's line shall be stretched out over Jerusalem." ¹⁷ "Again proclaim, saying, Thus says the LORD of hosts: "My cities shall again spread out through prosperity; The LORD will again comfort Zion, And will again choose Jerusalem." ¹⁸ Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there *were* four horns. ¹⁹ And I said to the angel who talked with me, "What *are* these?" So he answered me, "These *are* the horns that have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem." ²⁰ Then the LORD showed me four craftsmen. ²¹ And I said, "What *are* these coming to do?" So he said, "These *are* the horns that scattered Judah, so that no

one could lift up his head; but the craftsmen are coming to terrify them, to cast out the horns of the nations that lifted up *their* horn against the land of Judah to scatter it." (Zechariah 1:16-21 NKJ)

What are "horns" representing? Beasts, Rams horns, the RAMS' power involves butting heads with all their might ... such warfare does not require a lot of brain –

IV. *If we are to be craftsmen we have to be right-minded –*

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:2 NKJ)

NKJ Psalm 1:1 Blessed *is* the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ² But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. (Psalm 1:1-2 NKJ)

1. *We need to avoid the world –*

Do Not be conformed to it Do Not walk in its counsel Do not stand in its path(s) Or sit in its scornful seats

2. *We need to delight in the Word and prove God's Will –*

Meditate in it day and night and Renew your mind

V. *We need to have one mind / work together –*

⁵ Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, ⁶ that you may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 15:5-6 NKJ)

VI. *Even the Mind of Christ, the Great Builder of the Church –*

¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one. ¹⁶ For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ. (1Co 2:14-16 NKJ)

on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:18 NKJ)