

Revival & Reformation
Lesson 11 - Reformation: Thinking New Thoughts
BibleHistory.com

Colossians 3:1-2 NKJV *"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth".*

Psa 139:23, 24 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Mark 2:8 Right away, Jesus knew what they were thinking, and he said, *"Why are you thinking such things?"* Contemporary EV

- Christian thinking is a rare and difficult thing; so many seem unaware that the first great commandment according to our Lord is, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God . . . with all thy mind."

The Mind Matters

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV) *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

***Colossians 3:1–2** (NKJV) *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.*

1 Cor 4:5 *Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels (The Motives) of the hearts.*

Isa 55:8 9 *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.*

The Mind's Filters

Philippians 4:6–8 (NKJV) *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.*

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV) *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.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.*

The Mind's Safeguard

2 Corinthians 10:4–5 (NKJV) *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,*
Philippians 2:5 (NKJV) *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ...*

Mind/Body Relationships

***Job 31:1** (NKJV) *"I have made a covenant with my eyes; Why then should I look upon a young woman?"*

Romans 8:6-8 *For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*

***Mat 5:28** *But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*

Mat 9:22 *But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that hour.*

Prov 17:22 *A merry heart does good, like medicine, But a broken spirit dries the bones.*

Images of Influence

2 Corinthians 3:17–18 (NKJV) *Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

Psalms 115:4–8 *Their idols are silver and gold, The work of men's hands.⁵ They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see;⁶ They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell;⁷ They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat.⁸ **Those who make them are like them;** So is everyone who trusts in them.*

“It is a law both of the intellectual and the spiritual nature that by beholding we become changed. The mind gradually adapts itself to the subjects upon which it is allowed to dwell. It becomes assimilated to that which it is accustomed to love and reverence. Man will never rise higher than his standard of purity or goodness or truth. If self is his loftiest ideal, he will never attain to anything more exalted. Rather, he will constantly sink lower and lower. The grace of God alone has power to exalt man. Left to himself, his course must inevitably be downward.”- Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 555.

- Good thoughts bear good fruit, bad thoughts bear bad fruit-and man is his own gardener. - James Allen

Thomas Edison At the time his death of a New York Times analyst estimated based largely on business interests due to Edison’s inventions his brain was worth at least twenty-five billion dollars. Some brain!

IBM’s Logo was “THINK” National Geographic TV “Think Again” What separates us from animals. The teaching of evolution seeks to justify our animalistic behavior. The human brain too much capacity.

- Thinking is the talking of the soul with itself. Plato (C. 428-348 B.C.)
- Rule your mind or it will rule you. - Horace (65-8 B.C.)
- Thinking is the magic of the mind. - Lord Byron
- Nothing is more easy than to think, but nothing is more difficult than to think well. - Thomas Traherne
- Less than 15 per cent of people do any original thinking on any subject.
- People do not want doctrine that requires them to think

Do you ever think about what you think? You must start thinking about what you’re thinking.

Sin In Thought

Jesus taught we can commit perjury, murder, and adultery in the mind. Sin is not just an action it begins with an attitude.

**Mat 15:7, 8 "Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.*

Mat 15:18-20 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are [the things] which defile a man:

1 Sam 16:7 *For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."*

Our mortal bodies don’t go to heaven. Our minds/ hearts do.

- The majority of us recognize the necessity of receiving the Holy Spirit for living, but we do not sufficiently recognize the need for drawing on the resources of the Holy Spirit for thinking. – Oswald Chambers

Our Attitude Determines Our Altitude

A couple of church elders were trying to figure out why their church wasn't growing. One asked the other, "What do you think our problem is, ignorance or apathy?" The other replied, "I don't know and I don't care."

Prov 23:7 *For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:*

- So in essence, what you think is what you are. Beware of what you set your mind on for that you will surely become.

We are the sum total of our thoughts

No matter what do not picture in your mind a purple monkey.

- A pessimist is a man who looks both ways when he's crossing a one-way street. “Stinking Thinking”

Few people write or read poetry anymore. Good Poetry comes from and causes profound thinking.

The majority of us recognize the necessity of receiving the Holy Spirit for living, but we do not recognize the need for drawing on the resources of the Holy Spirit for thinking.- Oswald Chambers

Before Hoover damn was built in 1936, billions of gallons of rainwater simply flooded through the Colorado River to the sea. But once that wild water was harnessed, controlled and channeled, a tremendous amount of power was channeled to electricity and stored water used for irrigating millions of acres of farms. Most people let their thoughts flood aimlessly through their minds out into a useless sea of oblivion. But under the influence and control of the Holy Spirit a great deal of good can be accomplished.

“The brain nerves which communicate with the entire system are the only medium through which Heaven can communicate to man and affect his inmost life.” Testimonies, Vol. 2, p. 347.

God Knows Our Thoughts

Psychologists say that 10,000 thoughts go through the human mind in one day. That is 3,500,000 a year! If we must give an account of every idle word, how many would that be! If any man is judged according to the things recorded in his life, he will be condemned!

Like the black box when the plane crashes.

Psa 94:11 The LORD knoweth the thoughts of man, that they are vanity.

Amos 4:13 For behold, He who forms mountains and creates the wind And declares to man what are His thoughts, ...

John 2:24, 25 But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all and did not need that anyone should testify of man. For He knew what was in man.

Curbing Our Thoughts

Gen 6:5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the **thoughts of his heart** was only evil continually.

One of the chief dangers of TV and the Movies is no imagination or effort is required to form the picture, the skill of mental construction is dwarfed and numbed. **Change the input and you will change the essence!**

The mind grows by what it feeds on. TV and movies produce cheap, base and shallow thinking.

It's like a painting being handed to you with no energy.

When it rains the water naturally runs to the lowest point. Some of the moisture sinks in the soil but the vast majority flows back to the sea. But when controlled and managed water can be the source of much good. For efficient irrigation, produce electric power, hold bodies for recreation, household use etc.

Concentration - David Livingston learned to study in a loud factory. When digging a spring I must wait and allow that clear flow coming in to displace the muddy water in the hole.

How Do We Change Our Thinking?

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

Eph 4:22-24 For you ought to put off the old man (according to your way of living before) who is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind. And you should put on the new man, who according to God was created in righteousness and true holiness.

Rom 12:21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

- It will take all time and eternity to experience God's thought. - Oswald Chambers

God's Thoughts?

John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

What Should We Think About?

- To think is an effort; to think rightly is a great effort; and to think as a Christian ought to think is the greatest effort of a human soul.-Chambers

Mat 5:8 *Blessed are the pure in heart, ...*

***Psa 119:97-99** *Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation.*

1 Th 5:17 pray without ceasing,

Isa 1:18 "Come now, and **let us reason together**," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.

Say Together - Psa 19:14 *Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.*

Many are inquiring, "How am I to make the surrender of myself to God?" You desire to give yourself to Him, but you are weak in moral power, in slavery to doubt, and controlled by the habits of your life of sin. Your promises and resolutions are like ropes of sand. You cannot control **your thoughts**, your impulses, your affections. The knowledge of your broken promises and forfeited pledges weakens your confidence in your own sincerity, and causes you to feel that God cannot accept you; but you need not despair. What you need to understand is the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise. You cannot change your heart, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but you can choose to serve Him. You can give Him your will; He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ; your affections will be centered upon Him, **your thoughts** will be in harmony with Him. {SC 47.1}

- The God who has endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect did not intend us to forego their use.

- To do his gracious work God must have the intelligent cooperation of his people. If we would think God's thoughts, we must learn to think continually of God. - A. W. Tozer

Bury the Bolder Early in the eighteenth century, Leningrad was laid out. A number of large rocks, brought by a glacier from Finland, had to be removed. A particularly large piece of granite was lying in the way of the principal avenue, and bids were advertised for its removal. All of the proposals submitted by contractors were exorbitantly high because there were no mechanical means for removal, no hard steel for drilling or cracking the stone, and no explosives except inferior black powder. Before the contract was awarded to the lowest bidder, an insignificant-looking peasant appeared and offered to remove the boulder for a small fraction of the sum quoted by the other bidders. Since the government ran no risks, the "moujik" was authorized to try his luck. He got together a host of other peasants with spades and timbers, and they began digging a deep hole next to the rock. The rock was propped up to prevent its rolling into the hole. When the hole was deep enough, the props were knocked out and the boulder peacefully dropped into its grave, where it rests to this day, below the street level. The rock was covered with dirt, and the rest of the earth was carted away.

Who has the heart? With whom are our thoughts? Of whom do we love to converse? Who has our warmest affections and our best energies? If we are Christ's, our thoughts are with Him, and our sweetest thoughts are of Him. All we have and are is consecrated to Him. We long to bear His image, breathe His spirit, do His will, and please Him in all things.
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