

## **THINK BIBLICALLY!** (Romans 12:2)

Series: "The Disciplines Of A Godly Life" (Part 2)

...One man (Kent Hughes) wrote, "The complex capacity of the human brain is the subject of ever widening scientific wonder. Its 12-14 BILLION cells are only a shadow of its complexity, for each cell sends out 1000s of connecting tendrils so that a single cell may be connected with 10,000 neighboring cells, each is constantly exchanging data impulses. The 14 Billion cells X 10,000 connectors make the human mind an unparalleled computer...  
...We are "fearfully and wonderfully made." We are made "In the image and likeness of God Himself." God directs us, as Christians, to use our minds for His glory. We are to live our days listening to His Words and ordering our lives accordingly. We are to feed our souls deeply and daily on His Book, so that we might think God's thoughts after Him. He is the Creator and Definer of the meaning and value of all things. Man is not!!  
...Paul tells the importance of thinking Biblically, and it only happens when we hear and embrace God's Word.

## **TWO COMMANDS DIRECTING YOUR THOUGHTS SO THAT YOUR MIND WILL THINK TRUTH BY EMBRACING GOD'S WORD.**

...The Gospel reclaims the mind. "A mind is a terrible thing to waste."

### **I. We Must Stop Allowing Godless Thinking To Mold Our Thoughts. (v.2a)**

...Paul writes, "Do not conform to this world." He means, "You are doing it, stop it!"

- A. The word "conformed" is the word from which we get "scheme." It is an outward pressure that attempts to pattern us. This is the fierce pressure we feel to conform to the world's way of thinking and behaving. Molded like a piece of plastic in a mold. External conformity.
- B. Paul tells of the "world," meaning its influence upon us, it is this that we are to resist.
  - 1. "World" does not mean the material stuff, but is the word referring to the present period of time. It appears that each "age" has its own anti-God thought patterns.
  - 2. He is not talking about the "dirty dozen." Drinking, smoking, drugs, sex, etc. No! Paul is speaking about something far more serious...a worldly way of thinking.  
...This is a world-view that places its own meaning and value upon everything.  
...Everyone has a particular view of the world. Is yours the right one? Most...
- C. What are some common worldly ways of thought found today in the minds of Christians?
  - 1. Naturalism. This is a faith system. It rejects everything supernatural.  
...Carl Sagan, "The cosmos is all that is, or ever was, or ever will be."  
...Charles Darwin, Natural selection, evolution, and "The Ascent of Man."
  - 2. Secularism. It is way of thinking that only looks at the here and now.
  - 3. Humanism. A way of thinking that thinks too highly of man. He is the center of everything and hence there is no room for God. (Daniel 4:30ff...Neb) "I, I, My..."
  - 4. Relativism. A way of thinking that denies any absolutes. "Truth is relative..."
  - 5. Mindlessness. This seems to be the men and women who do not really think at all, and refuse to look at life in a critical thinking way. This is being "Amused to death."

...If you know Christ as Savior, you must discipline your thinking by sifting through the sea of ideas that daily bombard you so that you can sort out truth from error, right from wrong.

### **II. We Must Renew Our Minds (Daily) By Hearing God Through His Word. (v.2b)**

...(John Stott) "Has God renewed our minds in Christ and shall we not think with it?"

- A. We are to be a "thinking people." Our minds are being "transformed." (Metamorphosis) Like a butterfly, we too are being changed from the inside out.
  - 1. The idea here: God in saving us has given us a new nature. Now use it, think like Jesus  
...Jonathan showed us last week: Colossians 3:16, "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you"
  - 2. As we give ourselves to this discipline, increasingly you will think and be like Jesus.

- B. Paul is not urging us to think about Christian things. No! Rather, it is a call to think about all things through the lens of Scripture.
  - 1. Think rightly about God, His truth, Jesus, man, eternity, sin, family, work, money, sex, heaven, hell, salvation, death, to name just a few very important things.
  - 2. Think rightly about the wonder of God's saving love so displayed at Calvary.
- C. The result of thinking biblically: You will both approve and do God's will for your life. Wow!!!

### **SO WHAT? WHAT DIFFERENCE SHOULD THIS MAKE IN MY LIFE?**

- 1. If you are a Christian, God calls you to think in Biblical categories about all things. You will only come to know God's thoughts about these as you daily meet Him in the pages of His Word. He will meet you there and give you His mind about all things. Will you begin today?
- 2. If you baby yourself and never have time for this very important matter, you will never be what God desires you to be. You will have constant battle, because there will be "too much of the world in you!" Your thinking will be off...and your life will be "off."
- 3. Make no mistake about it, it is Satan himself who is the author of all the errors that float about. We see this in the opening of the Bible when he approached Eve with the temptation of doubt by asking, "Did God really say?" (Gen 3) He is the author of darkness ...and darkens the thinking of men and women, less they should see the glorious light of the Gospel. (2 Corinth 4:4)
- 4. Today Jesus is calling you..."You must be born again." Please consider what God did in sending His only Son to die a sinner's death for us. He died the death we deserved to die. He died in our place to pay for our sins. He will save any and all who bow before Him as Savior and Lord. Will you today come to Jesus?