

Sunday, August 18, 2013—The Battlefield of the Mind—Casting Down Imaginations

Introduction/Review

- II Corinthians 10:3-5—last Sunday after spending 7 weeks studying the armor of God we returned to our text passage for this series of studies on the Battlefield of the mind. In doing so we looked at the second half of verse 4 and how the weapons of our warfare are “mighty through God through God to the pulling down of strong holds.”
- Pulling Down—the Greek word translated “pulling down” contains the idea of destruction or demolition. Through God, our weapons are capable of demolishing and destroying the enemy’s strong-holds.
 - II Corinthians 10:8, 13:10—“destruction”
- Strong Holds—the Greek word that is translated “strong holds” is found only this one time in the New Testament. According to *Strong’s Concordance* the underlying Greek word means: 1) a castle, stronghold, fortress, fastness 2) anything on which one relies. The English word “stronghold” means: A fastness; a fort; a fortified place; a place of security. (*Webster’s 1828*).
- Ephesians 4:27—if you give the devil a place in your thinking he will establish a strong-hold a deeply entrenched and forfeited position in your thinking process. From that command center he will wreak havoc upon your personal life and the life of the greater body of Christ.
- Colossians 3:1-3—I challenged you last Sunday, at the end of the sermon to consider and evaluate your own life for places in your thinking that you have allowed the enemy to erect Strong-holds. What are your affections set upon?
- This morning we want to continue studying the passage so that we can learn how to pull down strong-holds in our thinking.

II Corinthians 10:5

- The first thing I want you to notice about verse 5 is that verse 4 is a parenthesis in the sentence that started in verse 3. Therefore, verse 5 is continuing with the thought that began in verse 3.
- I Corinthians 10:3—is very straightforward. Paul simply states that while we walk or conduct our lives in the realm of the flesh we do not fight/war after the flesh. We have seen and reviewed this truth in every study in this series.
- I Corinthians 10:5—skipping the parenthesis of verse 4, this verse focuses our attention on the nature of our warfare not being after the flesh from verse 3. From the first half of verse 5 it is evident that the battlefield or arena for this conflict (not being the flesh) is going to be the believers mind.

- Casting Down—the Greek word translated “casting down” is very similar to the Greek word “pulling down” that we studied last week in verse 4. This word appears 11 times in 9 verses and carries the following means: 1) to take down with the use of force: to throw down, cast down 2) to pull down, demolish a) the subtle reasonings (of opponents) likened to a fortress, i.e. to refute, to destroy
 - Acts 13:19, Acts 19:17—“destroyed”
- II Corinthians 10:5—in this context, as we saw last week with the phrase “pulling down” the expression “casting down” means to destroy or demolish. What is it that we are to cast down?
- Imaginations—we are to cast down “imagination.” According to *Strong’s Concordance* the Greek word translated “imagination” means 1) a reckoning, computation, 2) a reasoning: such as is hostile to the Christian faith, 3) a judgment, decision: such as conscience passes.
 - Romans 2:14-15—“thoughts”
- Throughout the Bible the words imagination and imaginations are connected and tied to the thoughts of men.
 - Genesis 6:5
 - Genesis 8:21
 - Deuteronomy 31:21
 - I Chronicles 28:9
 - Proverbs 6:18—“A heart that deviseth wicked imaginations”
 - Romans 1:21—they exalted their own thinking and reasoning above the knowledge of God that they possessed.
- Since the fall, humanity has an imagination problem. Our minds are constantly thinking about stuff. Our minds are constantly imagining and running scenarios about what we want to say or do in a given situation. Notice the connection between the heart of man and his imagination.
 - Jeremiah 17:9— The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?
- Hebrews 4:12—the word of God is capable of discerning the “thoughts and intents of the heart.” Remember that one of the pieces of armor that you have been given is the “sword of the spirit” i.e., the “word of God.”
- Luke 6:45—the words we say reveal the state and content of our hearts.
- II Corinthians 9:7—what do your actions say about how much your heart/mind values the work of the ministry? A man’s actions reveal the content of his thoughts and heart attitude.

- Romans 3:12-15—people rarely enter into deliberately sinful actions that are not preceded by a period of evil thinking.
- Proverbs 23:7—the testimony of the word of God is clear. That a man is equal to what he thinks in his heart.
- Romans 2:16—in the Day of Judgment, God is not only going to judge humanity based upon their deeds but also upon their secret thoughts.
- II Corinthians 10:5—we need to cast down, i.e., destroy and demolish imaginations and “every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God.”