

Sunday, August 25, 2013—The Battlefield of the Mind—Every High Thing

### **Introduction/Review**

- Last Sunday we began studying II Corinthians 10:5. We first noted that verse 4 is parenthetical and read verse 3 into verse 5 to demonstrate the spiritual nature of the warfare being discussed in the passage. The arena for battle is in the believers mind.
- Casting Down—the Greek word translated “casting down” is very similar to the Greek word translated “pulling down” that we studied in verse 4. We demonstrated the both words mean to destroy or demolish.
- Imaginations—we are to cast down “imagination.” We then demonstrated using many passages that imaginations are connected with our thoughts.
  - Romans 2:14-15—“thoughts”
  - Genesis 6:5
- We further saw that what a man thinks about and how he acts is a reflection of the condition of his heart i.e., his inner man.
  - Proverbs 6:18
  - Proverbs 23:7
- Romans 3:12-15—people rarely enter into deliberately sinful actions that are not preceded by a period of evil thinking.
- Matthew 6:21—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.
  - II Corinthians 9:7—“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give. . .”
  - Colossians 3:2—“Set your affections on things above. . .”
- II Corinthians 10:5—we need to cast down, i.e., destroy and demolish imaginations that are contrary to God and his word.

### **II Corinthians 10:5**

- Not only are we instructed to cast down imaginations but also “every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God.” The use of the word “and” between imagination and every high thing indicates that they are not the same thing. High things in addition to imaginations are to be cast down and destroyed.

- High Thing—the exact meaning of this word has escaped many of the commentators on this passage. In his commentary on II Corinthians, Ernest Campbell writes, “The meaning of the Greek word translated “high thing” is elusive. In Rom. 8:39 it means height, the opposite of depth. It may refer to every high, supernatural, demonic power pitted against the knowledge of God. Regardless what “every high thing” may be, that exalts and lifts itself up against the knowledge of God, one thing is certain, the spiritual weapons of righteousness will defeat it and bring it into captivity.”
- Ephesians 6:12—we wrestle against “spiritual wickedness in high places.
- II Corinthians 10:5—notice that the “ever high thing” exalts itself against the knowledge of God. A “high thing” then is anything type of thinking that seeks to supplant the knowledge of God.
- Romans 1:21-25—man knew who God was (v 21) but glorified him not as God (v 21). In the vanity of their imaginations and foolishness of their darkened hearts (v 21) humanity changed the glory of the God into an image (v 23) and thereby worshipped the creature more than the Creator (v 25). In essence, mankind left the knowledge of God that he had and created his own religion.
- Does this meet the definition of a “high thing” based upon II Corinthians 10:5? I believe it does man rebelled against the knowledge of God that he had and exalted his own thinking above God’s. Then for the exalted thinking of his own thoughts he created his own religion.
- The prophet Isaiah speaks over and over again about the haughtiness of mankind.
  - Isaiah 2:11, 17—the Hebrew word translated “haughtiness” means high. Mankind is so lofty and arrogant. “The quality of being haughty; pride mingled with some degree of contempt for others; arrogance (*Webster’s* 1828).” In the day of the Lord the loftiness and haughtiness of man will be brought destroyed as the Lord alone is exalted.
  - Isaiah 13:11, 16:6
  - Proverbs 21:4
- Exodus 20:3-4—Israel is told not to place any other god before God and not to make or worship any graven images.
- Leviticus 26:27-31—what were Israel’s “high places?” They were places in which the nation of Israel would erect graven images in violation of God’s commandments.
- Where did/do the gentiles worship their own gods? In secret or in the highest most visible place possible?
- II Kings 17:7-11, 29-34—Israel adopted the gods and worship practices of the gentiles nations surrounding them and built high places with idols and priests the ministered in high places.

- II Corinthians 10:5—remember that a “high thing” is anything that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. Are the religious practices and philosophies of the gentiles a high thing?
- Colossians 2:8—philosophy, traditions of men, and the rudiments of the world (religion) are all high things that exalt themselves against the knowledge of God.
- I Corinthians 1:17-29—what was man’s original problem according to Romans 1? It wasn’t that he didn’t know who God was it was that he glorified him not a God and professed his own wisdom as superior to the knowledge of God that he possessed.
- I Corinthians 2:6-8—the wisdom of God is put on full display today by the revelation and preaching of the mystery. According to I Cor. 3:19 God takes the wise in their own craftiness. He deals with them in exact opposite way that man’s wisdom says he should.
- Ephesians 3:1-11—through the revelation of the mystery God’s wisdom and knowledge has been put on full display and according to verse 9 God desires that all men see it. Why don’t all men see it? Because they have allowed their minds to be saturated with “high things” that exalt themselves against the knowledge of God.
- II Corinthians 10:5—a “high thing” is any religion, philosophy, tradition, theology, or viewpoint that seeks to exalt itself against and supplant the knowledge of God. This would include any religion, theology, denominational, or tradition of men that does not acknowledge, believe, and proclaim the wisdom of God in a mystery.
- Imaginations are the random thoughts and musings of yourself in your own head. High things are the organized and structured philosophies and viewpoints of a world system that is in complete rebellion against God.
- Both of these things (imagination and high things) need to be cast down and destroyed because if they are they will erect and fortify strong-holds in your thinking. How many strong-holds must an enemy possess before he controls the entire country, region, or territory?