

The Battlefield of the Mind

Think on These Things

Introduction/Review

- II Corinthians 10:5 (1237)—last Sunday we began to study what it means to bring “every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.” We illustrated the idea of captivity by looking at Israel’s captivity both in Babylon as well as being the lawful captive of the adversary.
- Isaiah 49:24 (758)—Satan held Israel as his lawful captive. By attacking Israel according to the terms and conditions of the law Israel has been rendered useless and unable to help themselves.
- II Timothy 2:26 (1280)—Satan seeks to duplicate “the Israel effect” within every member of the body of Christ by erecting strongholds in our thinking from which he can influence our lives. That is why we first need to cast down imaginations and every high thing so we might be able to pull down the strongholds. Once the strongholds are down we need to gain control over our thought lives by bringing our thinking captive to Christ.

Introduction/Review

- Captivity—“Subjection; a state of being under control. Bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. 2 Cor. 10.” (*Webster’s 1828*)
- II Corinthians 10:5—we are instructed to be “bringing (an active and ongoing process) into captivity” our every thought. What Paul is saying is that as believers we need to bring our thinking under control. We need to police and regulate the space between our own ears. Remember that we are locked in a battle for the control of our minds. The enemy is seeking to establish strongholds in your thinking and thereby render you of none effect for the battle i.e., to spoil you or take you prisoner.
- II Corinthians 10:5—according to this verse our thoughts need to be brought captive to the obedience of Christ. Christ is the standard for our thought life. If Christ were having this thought what would he do? How would he react or respond?

Introduction/Review

- I Corinthians 2:16 (1214)—every thought that passes through our minds needs to be judged based upon the standard of God's word to us through the pen of the Apostle Paul. We cannot control what thoughts pop into our heads, but we can control what we do with those thoughts once we have had them. If the thought, attitude, or action is not in line with the mind of Christ it needs to be given no place and cast down immediately lest it grow into a stronghold. Either we will bring our thought life captive to the obedience of Christ or our thought life will take us captive. The battle is in and for your mind.
- If we are going to set the charges and TNT to cast down imaginations and pull down the strongholds in our thinking that thinking needs to be replaced with good and proper thinking.

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- Philippians 4:6 (1260)—Paul tells us to “be careful for nothing.” What does this mean? Does it mean don’t be careful when driving or working on electrical project around your house? No, the Greek word translated “careful” here means “to be anxious” or “to be troubled with cares.”
- *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary* defines “careful” as: “Full of care; anxious; solicitous. Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things. Luke 10.”
- The word translated “careful” occurs 24 times in 17 verses in the King James Bible.
 - Matthew 6:25-34 (1002)—thought (6x)
 - Matthew 10:19—thought
 - Luke 10:41 (1089)—careful
- When Paul tells the Philippians to “be careful for nothing” is he telling them not to worry about food, clothing, and jobs because God is going to supernatural intervene to provide those things? No his telling them not to be full of care, anxious, or worried about anything in your life. Don’t allow your emotions to control and dominate your life and thinking.

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- Daniel 2:1-13, 29 (899)—Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that troubled his thoughts. As his thoughts dwelt upon the dream his “spirit was troubled” within him. His emotions responded to what he was thinking about.
- This is what Paul is talking about in Philippians 4:6, not allowing our emotions to run away with us and control us because we are not bringing our thought life captive to the obedience of Christ? We will talk about the role prayer plays in this next Sunday but for now I just want to focus on the thinking part.
- What do you spend the majority of your time thinking about?
- What is good and right in our life or what is wrong or negative?
- If one were to analyze your Facebook or Twitter posting what would they find? Thanksgiving or complaining.

Think on These Things

- Philippians 4:8—in the end (finally), Paul tells us what to think on.
- *Whatsoever Things are True*—there are more definitions of the English word “true” than I have space to list in the notes. Every single one of them is positive.
 - John 8:13-14 (1126)
 - Romans 3:4 (1194)
- *Whatsoever Things are Honest*—once again there are more definitions of the English word “honest” that I have space to list here. Once again all of them are positive.
 - Romans 12:17 (1206)
 - II Corinthians 8:21 (1236)
 - I Timothy 3:8, 11 (1281)
 - Titus 2:2 (1284)

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- *Whatever Things are Just*—the Greek word occurs 81 times in 76 and is variously translated: righteous (41x), just (33x), right (5x), meet (2x)
 - Philippians 1:7 (1257)
 - Colossians 4:1 (1265)
- *Whatever Things are Pure*—read definitions from the dictionary.
 - II Corinthians 7:1 (1234)
 - II Corinthians 11:2
- *Whatever Things are Lovely*—“amiable; that may excite love; possessing qualities which may invite affection.” (*Webster’s 1828*)
- *Whatever Things are of Good Report*—as opposed to gossip, slander, and deceit. Tabloid thinking or renewed mind thinking.
 - Romans 3:8 (1194)

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- *If There Be Any Virtue*—see dictionary for definitions.
 - II Peter 1:5 (1317)
- *If There Be Any Praise*—see dictionary for definitions.
 - Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14 (1250)
- II Corinthians 10:5—these are the things Paul tells us think on. Here the divine checklist for “brining every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. When thoughts come into your mind ask yourself: is it true, is it honest, is it just, is it pure, is it lovely, is it of good report, is it virtuous, is it worthy of praise? If it not cast it down and get rid of it. If is think on and praise God for it.