

Introduction: The battle for the mind must be won!

- A. There needs to be real effort in staying focus on God's thoughts (**Phil 4:8-9**)
 - 1. We are a product of what we choose to think about.
 - 2. If you are struggling in your life as a Christian always start here!
- B. We can live a life full of purpose when we "think on these things!" (**Rom 12:1-2**)

I. Start with knowing the holy God

- A. Consider how God introduces Himself to the world. (**Isa 40:28-31**)
 - 1. God is everlasting. He created all things. He never tires or is weary. (All Powerful) His wisdom is infinite (All knowing)
 - 2. He wishes to help and bless those who seek His ways (Wait on the Lord)
- B. The knowledge of the character and promises of God is the motivating force to change and mold us. (**1 John 3:1-3**)
 - 1. We must choose to see the things that are unseen.
 - 2. When we come to love the Lord our hearts will be directed to His coming.
- C. Look carefully at the prayer of David. (**Ps 63:1-8**)
 - 1. Consider the expressions: "thirsts," "longs," "looked," and "meditate."
 - 2. True knowledge must be pursued and digested. It must not be superficial.
 - 3. As Job meditated on his ordeal he came to better know God! (**Job 42:5-6**)
- D. When God introduces Himself to Moses He appeared as a fire. (**Ex 3:1-5**)
 - 1. How do you approach He who is holy? There is a distinction and a fear that proceeds from being in the presence of a holy God. (**Isa 6**)
 - 2. Consider the perfect holiness of God. (**1 Sam 2:2; Isa 40:25; Hosea 11:9**)
 - 3. "In the N.T., the words holy, holiness, sanctify... all come from the same word .. which means "sacred, pure, morally blameless, innocent, modest, clean."
- E. The basis of all purity comes from imitating God. (**Eph 5:1-4**)
 - 1. We serve a holy God who abundantly forgives.
 - 2. Our ultimate purpose is to be conformed to the image of Christ and in that we will glorify God. (**Rom 8:29; Phil 1:10-11**)

Phil 1:10 - "so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ" – New American Bible

II. Put on the pure mind of Christ

- A. There are four servant songs in Isaiah that describes His mind. (**Isa 42, 49, 50, 52-53**)
 - 1. The power of the Servant begins with His ear (**Isa 50:4-5**)
 - 2. It is a very risky thing to completely open your heart (ear) to another.
 - 3. The ear of Christ led Him to the cross. (**Isa 50:6-7**)
 - a. He was scourged, He was slapped and was spit upon. (**Mt 26:67**)
 - b. He was not in any way ashamed but had a face of flint. (**Ezk 3:8-9**)
- B. Consider the emphasis in the ministry of Jesus towards handling God's will.
 - 1. Jesus would *only do* those things that He saw the Father do. Without instruction *He would do nothing!* (**Jn 5:19-20, 30**)

2. Jesus wanted His followers to understand authority and to follow the Father just like He did. He wanted others to test doctrine! **(Jn 7:16-17)**
3. This respect for the words of God would lead Jesus only to act when the Father gives instruction. This led Jesus to the cross. **(Jn 8:28-32; 12:32-33)**
4. Jesus showed how we must empty ourselves and follow Him. When we do as Jesus did then we will honor the Father. **(Jn 12:25-28; Phil 2:5)**
5. This same attitude was to be expected of all us whom this precious word would be delivered! **(Jn 12:48-50; Phil 4:8-9)**

III. Meditate only upon the pure doctrine of the apostles and prophets

- A. We must willingly limit what we open our hearts to. **(1 Tim 1:3; 4:6, 16)**
 1. Paul warned the Corinthians about a false “open mindedness” that would lead them away to another Christ and another gospel. **(2 Cor 11:3-4)**

“..your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.” - NIV

 2. One brother recently said: “In the church the reading of the books of men is on the increase and the reading of the Bible is on the decrease.”
- B. This word was delivered through the apostles and prophets.
 1. This carefully delivered message would not be added to by Jesus, the Holy Spirit or the Apostles as it was delivered! **(Jn 16:12-13; Eph 3:3-5)**
 2. This word would transcend culture and changing times. **(Acts 17:30-31)**
 3. This message is the foundation of God’s work in us. **(Eph 2:20; Acts 2:42)**
 4. If the early church had no instruction then they did nothing. **(Acts 15:23-24)**
 5. This is how they glorified God! **(Col 3:17; 1 Pt 4:11)**
- C. Satan wants to turn us away from the foundation.
 1. Recently a brother enthusiastically shared this quote:
 "God said it, I believe it, that settles it"...Uhhh...no...God said it, someone translated it into your language divorcing it from its own culture, you read it with a preconceived belief lens, then interpreted it and became convinced in your heart you knew what meant even though it bore no resemblance to the original audience or culture it was spoken into to begin with..."
 2. This study proclaims that the Bible is not authoritative and could not be understood without the help of other men! Do not let men take your Bible away!

IV. Keep the conscience pure

- A. The essence of conversion is honesty towards God and self and a desire to yield to God’s way. **(1 Pt 3:21)**
 1. We must fight to keep a good conscience. **(Acts 24:16; 1 Tim 4:1-2)**
 2. We must always understand that forgiveness is a product of repentance. We must demand teaching that opens and convicts the heart. **(1 Tim 4:12)**
- B. How much of modern media do we let into our hearts?
 “Vice is a monster of so frightful mien. As to be hated needs but to be seen; Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face, We first endure, then pity, then embrace.” – Alexander Pope

Conclusion: What will we be thinking about on the day we see the Lord?