

Providence Reformed Baptist Church - Sunday, January 10, 2021

Sermon Series: Hopes and Fears

4. Overcoming Fear with the Mind of Christ – Phil. 2:5-8

Pastor Phillip M Way

Review: I. Fear Not. II. Overcoming Fear with a Sound Mind (Girded, Guarded, Godly), and III. Overcoming Fear with a Renewed Mind (Put Off, Put On, Be Renewed – the Believer’s Thinking: Desire what the Spirit Desires).

Intro: The Battle for the Mind (Spiritual Warfare) - **2 Cor. 10:3-5** – We are constantly being distracted and are even being misdirected by the so-called news media. There is a huge effort underway (nothing new under the sun) to propagandize us, the thinking public. It has been said that there were three easy steps from freedom to communism in Romania: 1) Demand uniformity of thought, 2) Rewrite history, and 3) Silence the church. This is just a glimpse of the blazing truth that spiritual warfare is not about the spirit, but the MIND! False religion, worldly philosophies and psychologies, ideological fallacies and fortresses, these all share one thing in common – they stand against the truth as revealed in the Word of God. John MacArthur stated, “Spiritual warfare is a battle against all anti-God ideas.”

In a sermon preached decades ago, Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones proclaimed about the battle for the mind, "The modern man works so hard at his pleasures, and pleasure is no longer relaxation - it is always excitement, always taking out of a man, not allowing him to relax or get relief - no, he is so busy in everything that he does that the result is he is too tired to think.

"People used to read big books, but they haven't got time now they say. They can't even read their newspaper, so they are becoming smaller and more tabloid. He can only look at the headlines and he gets those flashed on a screen or coming across the news - listen to the headlines then turn it off.

"We've no time, so you see how this is working. It means that we think less. Our thinking is prescribed and given to us in a tabloid form and we accept it without knowing why we should accept it. Here is a very dangerous tendency at the present hour.

"Then when you add to this the worship of the expert, you see how dangerous it becomes. Who am I to understand things like this - so we deliberately stop thinking. Any pronouncement made by [an expert] and we accept it automatically. So we submit to the expert [without thinking]."

Now for a moment, let us forget conspiracy theories – they abound and multiply like rabbits in the fertile minds and imaginations of the easily swayed. Then again, having paranoia doesn’t necessarily mean that they are not out to get you! But let us also admit in the face of deliberate disinformation, manipulation, and even gas-lighting (from BOTH and ALL sides of the secular, political realm), the church has been called to stand up and boldly hold forth the Word of truth! It is the world, our flesh, and the devil that are intent on suppressing the truth (Rom. 1:18), exchanging the truth (Rom. 1:25), resisting the truth (2 Tim. 3:8), turning away from the truth (2 Tim. 4:4; Titus 1:14), denying the truth (Gen. 3:1), and disobeying the truth (Rom. 2:8).

We are commanded to know the truth (John 8:32), tell the truth (Eph. 4:25), walk in truth (2 Cor. 4:2, 3 John 3-4), rejoice in truth (1 Cor. 13:6), obey truth (Gal. 5:7), and we learn that truth is even necessary for the right worship of God (John 4:23). Philippians 4:8 tells us to think on these things: “whatsoever things are true...” With the battle raging all around us for truth, is it any wonder then that the single best and most appropriate thing we have been given as we have trusted Christ is exactly what we need to set our mind of the truth? What have we been given? We have been given the MIND OF CHRIST! **1 Cor. 2:6-16**

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- IV. The Mind of Christ – 1 Cor. 2:16; Phil. 2:2-5
 - A. Let This Mind be in You – vs. 5
 - 1. Attitude or Mindset
 - 2. Perspective – how do you see things?
 - B. Confessing Jesus as God – vs. 6
 - 1. In the Form of God – nature, essence – Col. 1:15 – His glory displayed
 - 2. Equal with God – but He did not use that to His own advantage, but for ours! – Mark 10:45 – a platform not for grasping, but giving
 - C. Exemplifying Self-Sacrificing Humility – vs. 7
 - 1. Made Himself nothing, of no reputation
 - 2. He emptied himself, not of things, but of self – He made Himself insignificant in appearance – Isa. 53:2
 - D. Obedience, Persevering to the Death – vs. 8
 - 1. He took the form of a servant, a slave without rights – John 13:3-5
 - 2. This was not God in disguise, He was made like His brothers – Heb. 2:17
 - 3. He became a man, and He died! – Gal. 3:13
 - E. Esteem All Others as Better – Phil. 2:3
- V. A Mind Stayed on the Lord – Isa. 26:3-4; Col. 3:1-4
 - A. Kept in Perfect Peace
 - 1. Stayed – lean on for support, propped up, unshakeable
 - 2. Peace – shalom – complete, wholeness, well being
 - 3. Trust – full of confidence toward
 - B. Set on Things Above
 - 1. You died with Christ and have been raised with Him to new life – Col. 2:13, 20; Gal. 2:20; Rom. 6:1-11
 - 2. Seek those things above
 - a. Seek - the orientation of our will with continuous ongoing effort
 - b. Above – an eschatological view, the things that have to do with the world that is coming, and not the world that is passing away
 - 1) Where Christ is
 - 2) From Where Christ Reigns
 - 3. Set Your Mind
 - a. From Seek to Set – Think - consider, have an opinion, have understanding, be intent on, thoughts, attitudes, disposition - a habit of the mind – Psa. 1:1-3
 - b. Above or Below – heaven and earth – Matt. 6:19-21; Phil. 3:12-21
 - c. False teachers are concerned only with the things of this earth – Col. 2:18
 - d. You Died – why do we fear death if we have already died to self?
 - 4. Your Life is hidden with Christ in God –
 - a. Our heavenly identity is real, but for the time being hidden in a safe place – 1 Cor. 2:9; Isa. 49:2; Psa. 17:15; 27:5; 31:20
 - b. Our identification with Christ, now real but hidden, will one day be manifest - 1 John 3:2
 - 5. There is hope stored up for us in heaven – Col. 1:5, 27

Conclusion: In the face of fear, uncertainty, and trying times, remember (have this mindset) – “To Live is Christ, to Die is Gain” – Phil. 1:21

Cross References

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

1 Corinthians 2:6-16

6 However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, 8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. 16 For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Colossians 1:15

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

Mark 10:45

45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Isaiah 53:2

For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him.

John 13:3-5

3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, 4 rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. 5 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

Hebrews 2:17

17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Galatians 3:13

13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”),

Philippians 2:3

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

Isaiah 26:3-4

3 You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You. 4 Trust in the Lord forever, For in Yah, the Lord, is everlasting strength.

Colossians 3:1-4

3 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Colossians 2:13

13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

Colossians 2:20

20 Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations—

Galatians 2:20

20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Romans 6:1-11

6 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? 3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing

that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Psalm 1:1-3

1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.

Matthew 6:19-21

19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Philippians 3:12-21

12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. 16 Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind. 17 Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. 18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things. 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Colossians 2:18

18 Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

1 Corinthians 2:9

9 But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

Isaiah 49:2

2 And He has made My mouth like a sharp sword; In the shadow of His hand He has hidden Me, And made Me a polished shaft; In His quiver He has hidden Me.”

Psalm 17:15

15 As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.

Psalm 27:5

5 For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.

Psalm 31:20

20 You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence from the plots of man; You shall keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.

1 John 3:2

2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Colossians 1:5

5 because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,

Colossians 1:27

27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Philippians 1:21

21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

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