

I thought about what to preach this evening; going into the long Thanksgiving weekend:

The Lord led me to a consideration of our daily thoughts. What do I think of day to day? Where are my thoughts? *Proverbs 12:5, 15:26*

This is NOT to say that we don't struggle with wicked thoughts; all of us do; but as Christians, we don't wade into cesspools of sin in our minds and long stay there!

God has called you (Christian) to direct your mind and your thoughts upon Christ and His Word. Set your affection.... And once we have SET our hearts heavenward, then, we are to KEEP them, as Solomon wrote: Proverbs 4:23

God commands us to watch/protect our minds against allowing sin/wickedness from freely entering into them uncontested!

"Keep thy heart with all diligence (or above all keeping) "

KEEP means to watch/guard our HEARTS from outward dangers; it may also be defined as building a blockade for protection; to sinful keep intruders out of our minds/thoughts.

1 Peter 1:13 (Don't neglect your minds); Ephesians 6:14

Solomon then adds; "WITH ALL DILIGENCE" or above all keeping; WHY Christian? Because EVERY ACTION, (OR every outward ACT/everything that you DO) ORIGINATED in your mind and in your thoughts. You CONCEIVED and THOUGHT about it before ever you DID it. Therefore:

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for OUT OF IT (out of your heart and mind) are the issues (the acts and actions) of your life"

Bottom line: If you're not acting right, it's because you're not thinking right. As children of God, we should have a consistent DESIRE to KEEP our minds sanctified!

What is your heart?

Your heart IS YOU and everything about you; it is your inner man, to include your thoughts, your mind, your affections, your desires, and your will. Therefore, We ARE what we THINK, as written by Solomon, *Proverbs 23:6-7:*

"Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats: For as he THINKETH in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink saith he; but his heart is not with thee"

The point of this passage is; this man is NOT who he says he is, (he tells you to eat and drink, but his heart is not with you), and so for us, we sometimes SAY or FEIGN ourselves TO BE what we DO NOT MEAN. Therefore, we are NOT always who we say we are, BUT....AS WE THINK in our hearts; THAT IS WHO WE ARE!

The ACTS/ACTIONS of our lives are nothing more than the fruit of our thoughts; or the outflow of our hearts; "the issues of life".

Mark Twain: "What a wee little part of a person's life are his acts and his words. His real life is led in his head, and is known to none but himself. All the day long, the mill of his brain and his thoughts is grinding, that is his history, not those other things"

Therefore, we must govern/control our hearts/minds; cultivate godliness in them; but also, we must protect our minds from vain thoughts that might "lodge" within them.

If we would grow in grace and mature in the faith of Christ, if we would become more devoted to Christ and more sanctified in our lives, we must cultivate holiness and godliness in our hearts and minds.

HOW? By communing with our Lord in His Word....and by faith and obedience to The Word. And then, by prayer, meditation, and hiding the Word in our hearts.

Beloved, if the acts/actions of our lives would be right, holy, and good; our hearts and minds must FIRST be sanctified by the truth of God's Word! Only then will we be filled

with right thoughts; thoughts that glorify and honor God.

And so, where are your thoughts Christian? What mind is in you? What are the thoughts that fill your heart? Romans 8:5-9

The Christian CANNOT be carnally minded in this context, because (as Paul wrote); TO BE carnally minded is death; and the carnal mind is enmity against God, and the child of God does not live life with a carnal mind; but with a spiritual mind.

The unregenerate mind: Genesis 6:5, Psalm 10:4-6

We need to be daily cleansing, renewing, or as it means RENOVATING our minds and thoughts with the Word!

Psalm 51:10, Proverbs 16:3, Romans 12:1-2, Colossians 3:5-16, Philippians 4:8-9

If you're not ACTING RIGHT; you're NOT THINKING RIGHT!

Our minds are in constant need of being RENOVATED!

Psalm 119:113, 139:23-24

Every one of us is governed by our minds; the question is, who is governing your mind? Christ? Or the wicked one?