

Taking Your Thoughts Captive 2020-03-29

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵ We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ

Thank you to the front line: doctors, hospital staff, Supply: truckers, stockers/check out. Praying for you and your families.

Hear from LEFC folks.... miss each other.

- Take for granted: voice, handshake, hugs....preaching to people!
 - At times preached with eyes closed...probably do again today.

Pandemic affecting all: social interaction, some laid off, retirement fund down.

- What we think about affects our attitude, actions, enjoyment of everything in life.
 - Wrong thinking produces anxiety, fear, worry, anger, stress...
 - We reap what sow in our thought life.
- Gospel-centered thinking always produces peace/hope regardless of situation.

Two type spiritual unhealthy thoughts > emotional turmoil and eventually sin. Galatians 6:7-9

- Sinful thoughts: if acted upon would clearly be sinful.
- un-Biblical thoughts... things contrary to what Bible says about God, man, creation, gospel, us or others....this most Christians struggles now!
 - "God/others not care, not sovereign, kids/spouse burden"

Spiritually unhealthy thoughts just come, but what do with them is our choice.

- Recognize danger and turn away by them taking captive OR allow them and eventually they become strongholds in your life. James 4:7, Colossians 2:8, 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

In Corinth Christians were believing lies instead of truth of God's Word.

- "strongholds" = intellectual arguments/viewpoints contrary to nature/character of God and/or biblical view creation, Gospel, orthodoxy.
 - Set men's thoughts above God's and led to disobey Jesus' commands.
- "Take captive" = Greek "to control, conquer, bring into submission."
 - thoughts continually brought into conformity with Jesus' teachings, Word.
- Only way destroy error is with Truth...Replace wrong thought with Truth.

Gospel truth is weapon for destroying arguments and taking thoughts captive.

- Not name/claim or positive thinking but Holy Spirit work in us to renew/transform (sanctify) thoughts.....both proactive/reactive, offensive/defensive.

1st Flee source spiritually unhealthy thought. Proverbs 6:27, Psalm 101:3a, 1Corinthians 6:12

- Can't run away from something (snake) still holding on to.
 - Can't feed wrong thinking and NOT struggle with unhealthy thoughts.
 - "What you feed in your life grows." John Wesley
- Cut off sources that feed sinful, unbiblical, unhelpful thinking.
 - Gospel truth is filter for audio, TV shows, websites, books,

- Can't force wrong thoughts out with will power: will think more about
 - We move toward whatever we focus our attention on.
 - Watch food ad/feel hungry, yawn causes others to yawn.
 - "Change channel" of mind and focus on Gospel truth.

Run away from focusing on harmful, sinful, unbiblical thoughts and run toward (pursue) think about good/true/right 2 Timothy 2:22-23, Romans 8:5, Philippians 4:6-8

- God's weapons powerful/effective in destroy strongholds and renewing mind.
 - Saturate your thinking w/Word, so Holy Spirit transform thoughts.
 - Blessing of quarantine: time for prayer, read/memorize Word.

Can't get out what I don't put in....computer

- Mind like sponge, whatever it absorbs comes out when squeezed.
 - We are being squeezed through isolation, routine disruption, kids, spouse, stress,
- Gospel-centered thinking always produces peace/hope. 2 Timothy 1:7, Ephesians 1:11, Romans 8:28, 37-39
 - LESS fear, frustration, worry, anxiety regardless of what happens to your health, family, business, retirement, economy.....

Daily preach truths of Gospel to self for peace/hope/joy in present chaos.

- Remind self of person, provisions and presence of Jesus Christ.
 - Physically distanced from each other but never from Savior/friend Jesus Christ.
 - *We're all feeling the effect of social distancing. But know this: Your greatest friend, your deepest lover, and your sweetest companion knows no distance between him and you. He draws especially near to the lonely and the broken-hearted in times like this.* Paul Tripp