

AS WE THINK

By: Bill Richardson Edited by: Bill Kelley

To get us to realize the importance of our thoughts, I can't think of a better way than to quote Proverbs 23:7, as it says to us, "*For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...*" However, so that it can be made closer to us, let's say it this way, "As we think in our hearts, so are we."

Think with me and try to envision all that can be said of this subject. We can only verbalize as we think. Again, I say, "Isn't the soundness of mind a blessing?" Also, isn't it a blessing to study and improve our mind? I submit to you that study and improving our knowledge must take place during our total life span in using the power of prayer and dedication in walking with Him day by day. In considering, as a person thinks, we must realize there must be the understanding how we think. Proverbs 23:7 notes that as a person thinks in his heart, and that is one's mind, so he behaves. Behaviors; the way we act, our conduct, our manners, are by-products of, "as we think." There are other by-products of, as we think, and they too are controlled by the brain, the mind. Our mind controls not only what we think and do, but also how our body and spirit feel. Don't you think so?

Have you ever been asked, "How do you feel? Sure you have! This can be related to physical, intellectual or spiritual, which ever. Our spiritual and physical being, our life, is controlled by our mind. Here I identify our mind as our reasoning facility. Our mind is that part of our physical body housed in our brain and that is the way man was created in the beginning. It is for sure a blessing to man. Our mind must be developed properly with truth-knowledge, growing and developing in physical strength, emotions which are a person's convictions and can be expressed also, "one's personality." Personality is defined as; distinctive individual qualities of a person considered collectively. All of this collectively is related to this study, "As We Think."

In recent time, I remember someone posed the question, "How is your spiritual life?" I answered it with all the emotional truth of my soul and said, "I was on cloud twenty-nine, that my love was multiplied and squared greatly because of the great and truthful sermon the preacher had just finish. It did me good...I tell you.

Here is a thought question for all of us to ponder. Why has it been said that each of us have our own unique personality and intellect, and that we are all different, but we are still all alike? Write me a note on that one!

There is so much involved in a study of the mind. I know that it's too deep for me to do it justice. However, I have some truth-data which was developed in my heart of knowledge that I will insert here. I do this without reluctance or fear, but in prayer that it will serve the great purpose for which it is intended.

Dear one(s) I am completely, that is totally convinced that becoming a Christian, living life and doing the will of our Heavenly Father begins in knowing, first, what we must do and second, knowing the resulting rewards for doing, and third, by knowing and realizing that it is a mind (conscious) thing on our part.

For this to happen I am convinced and confident, if we know as much as we can about our mind we can better care for our being. The Bible speaks much to us about our mind. Yes, it speaks about a *pure mind!* There can be no doubt—we need to know about our mind. The mind controls all the other parts or whatever you want to call the total. Now listen up—after learning the truth obedience is necessary...not only necessary, it is commanded and thus it is an obligation and if not accepted one is condemned. It's true!

There is a unity and interdependency between our thinking, feeling and doing. We are made-up of our physical body, personality, intellect, etc. If we change one part of ourselves, we change; we become a different person. If the change is in our personality, we will look the same, but we are not the old person we once were; we are a new person. The same applies to our physical body.

Have you known someone who has lost a limb, had some disfiguring illness, or heart trouble? Their personality will change. Often, they will become bitter and angry. Others will become more caring and understanding. It all depends upon how one chooses to look at the change in his physical condition, but it does change them. It is a mind thing.

Paul tells us that when we come to Christ and allow him to change our inner man, then we will think and act like Christ. Please note this scripture, "*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus*" (Philippians 2:5). "*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me*" (Galatians 2:20). (See Also Romans 6:4)

If we can better understand how we think we can better understand why we behave the way we do. Remember, "*As a person thinks in his heart, so he behaves*" (Proverbs 23:7). Our thinking controls our behavior, thus we must conclude that our thoughts, our thinking, is also controlled by something. Here then is where teaching and learning comes into the formula.

Teaching and learning result in knowledge gained and knowledge is exercised through action (doing) in wisdom to accomplish our best. Our best must be honest and forthright performance in doing that which is purposed in heart and meets the total of one's duty, one's obligation.

So it is a desire of my heart to analyze as best I can the paragraphs which I have just set forth and to include the study title. "*As We Think*", and see how better we can analyze the thoughts that come to mind. In doing this study my heart has convinced me that my performance of this study will be judged by not only the words

set forth herein, but by the motivating strengths attached and affected of them to hearts that are hungering and thirsting to gain knowledge-thoughts and desires to better consummate lives of right thinking and doing.

When we think, what are we doing? We are giving thought as the subject of the mind. I've had some one ask me, "What is the subject of your thought, or what your thoughts are?" It stands as sound reasoning then, that we must be very careful what the subject of our thoughts is. We can commit terrible sin in thought.

We learn this from the early history of man as the story is revealed on the pages of the Bible. In the third chapter of Genesis the account can be said to be, "Humanity's

Sin thoughts are the wickedness of man and are described as evil (Genesis 6:5); First Sin and the Results." The tragedy of that event has remained with man all through time and it seems to flourish as God permits the good earth to stand. (Romans 1:21); known by God (1 Corinthians 3:20); and are in need of repentance (Acts 8:22).abominable (Proverbs 15:26); sinful (Isaiah 59:7); devoid of God (Psalms 10:4); futile

The profound sense of one's sinfulness has a terrible affect upon one's heart. Contriteness: A feeling of regret for one's sins or misdeeds and followed by repentance, to receive forgiveness, must be the state of the Christian's heart at all times. As for us—we must *"...know the God our Father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever..."* (1 Chronicles 28:9).

Let's pray this prayer as did David of old, *"O LORD, You have searched me and know me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thoughts afar off (before they are fully formed). You comprehended my path and my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, 'O LORD, You know it altogether..."* *"...search me 'O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked ways in me, and lead me in the way everlasting"* (enduring for all time) (Psalm 139:2-4, 23-24). In Jesus name we pray! Amen!

Please give thought to these words: *"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not walk according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ"* (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).—This is being captivated by Christ.

When we make every thought obedient to Christ it is an expression of complete commitment to the will of God and loving God, (See Matthew 22:35-39), this refers to the Great Commandment of loving God with our all.

Penny for your thoughts right now as you are reading this study. You are thinking and I know you are. These thoughts that I am causing you to think is a method of learning. I have a question for us: Can or do we learn and know and gain knowledge without thinking? I am thinking that we need to study some more on or about “purity.”

The reason is because of the desires of God for us to be as pure as possible. If our acts are the results of our learning, and they are what and how to present ourselves as Christians, there is by necessity, a whole life of thinking that must be going on and continuing.

My reasoning and thinking is about the “add on” provisions as set forth in 2 Peter 1:5-7 and the blessings of v. 8. And make sure to take note of the tragedy stated in v. 9 for those “who lacks.” Then in v. 10 there is set forth the more diligent need of man. Please read and ponder and consider your obligations to all referenced scriptures.

Think about what is said by Peter in 2 Peter 3:1, *“Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder)”* See, there is nothing wrong in repetition. If God uses it, it’s right—His word is pure.

I say this to myself and prayerfully beg you to acknowledge also that a pure mind is a need that I have and that I must maintain it by carefully purifying it...as is said in today’s expression, “twenty-four seven.” We should live, think, and even dream, pure and energy laden actions. I tell you, I have dreamed of being in the pulpit preaching some of the best sermons that you never heard. I sure did enjoy them; they were “Mark quality” I am here to tell you. Anyway, I accept that wonderful Proverb and believe with all my heart that, “as I think so am I.”

“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart” (1 Peter 1:22). Let our thoughts be on these words which were used in that scripture: obeying, truth, spirit, sincerity, love, fervently, and brethren. Let them be agents of our thoughts and yes, agents that purify our thoughts.

Note the ingredients of *pure and undefiled religion* expressed in James 1:27. Don’t forget James 2:10. We need to think about James 2:10 every day of life. *“Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God”* (Matthew 5:8).

God knows about all of us, *“There is a generation that is pure in its own eyes, yet is not washed from its filthiness”* (Proverbs 30:12). Again, *“You (God) comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways”* (Psalms 139:3). Our thoughts, the reasoning of our mind, as compared to God take note, *“How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!”* (Psalms 139:17). It is humbling to think and realize God’s thoughts concerning little-o-me, but it’s true. *“Many, O LORD my God, are your wonderful thoughts toward us cannot be recounted to You in order; If I would declare and*

“speak of them, they are more than can be numbered” (Psalms 40:5) That should cause us to realize that we are never out of God’s consciousness. He never forgets us. How should we think of Him? I think I know the answer to that question. If I don’t—I am in trouble and in need of fixing!

Not all that can be said or could be said in one study lesson of a Bible subject. Thus it is true of the subject of this study. Now it is the desire of my heart to share more scripter references that have application to our thinking for this lesson that you can use, if you wish, to do future study. And by no means will they be all-inclusive. Please look them over. I know you will be challenged and will enjoy the lessons presented in them. They are truly thought provoking.

Psalm 17:3 – A prayer defending character

37:30 – Speaking wisdom and talking judgment

49:3 – Speaking of wisdom, meditating of love, and understanding

59:12 – Sin of the mouth, words of the lips and pride

Proverbs 4:24 –Putting away froward (contrary) mouth and perverse (distorted or twisted) lips

8:7 - Mouth that speaks truth

10:31 – Mouth of the righteous bring forth wisdom

15:2 - Tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly

16:23 – Heart of the wise teaches his mouth, adds learning to his lips

16:28 – Perverse man sows strife, whispers separate one from friends

27:2 – Let another praise you—not your own mouth

Matthew 5:11 – Read and see how we are blessed to be in great company

Matthew 12:34 – Read and see what comes out of the abundance of the heart

James 3:9-10 – Very powerful, please read in total—make sure to understand

1 Peter 3:9-10 – Go ahead and read v. 10-12. Powerful!

1 John 3:18 – Read...you will learn of Christian Assurance. Read v.19-24, you will love

“This was a good and needed study”—for all of us and that is for sure, I think. God bless us all in our study as we think, and participate, so that all things are done for learning and edifying each other in the spirit of love glorifying God. May we resolve to manifest what we think, say and do be justified in His sight!

The scriptures and commentary that has been set forth in this study has been of great benefit and did me good. These wonderful scriptures and principles conscious motivating and it is my prayer that you who read and study, will accept all truth herein, and that it will be a conscience server to you also.

The well-trained conscience is equal to the knowledge, abiding faith, and love that we submit or expose to our mind. With confidence, I say that you are studying

this lesson with faith and love, and that it will be of great benefit to you. With confidence I also say that you desire to be blessed, to gain more knowledge, (true abiding biblical knowledge) , which is associated with responsibilities, which creates a desire to seek, to search diligently, to accept when found, to associate with, and be an active part of, and that you will abide faithfully in the Lord's Church until death.

The church, of which I am speaking, cost the blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is His Body, His Kingdom, and His Church. Please be an obedient dedicated part of the church that you read about in Bible, Christ's church. It is the only church we read about in the Bible (See Ephesians 4:5) You cannot pass through Heaven's gate if you are not in His Body, (His Church); that is the truth; that is what the Bible teaches.

I invite you to view and use my Website often, www.geocities.com/dubbyt, and please note other consecrated writings. New study writings are added along as completed. There is a writing posted that I am sure you will want to view and copy. The writing title is, "The Church of the Bible, Christ's Church." It has a two-page enclosure, which has the title, "What Must I Do to Be Saved." Please study both "biblical-truth" writings with an honest and receptive heart for truth and obedience. You will be blessed! God bless you for studying with me on this great subject. God loves you! In addition, I do too! Your servant in the Lord...

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PS: The next page is a strong and thought provoking writing and it finishes off my package real well....in my thinking. It is complimentary and serving to the cause of Christ. It was written by a Brother in the Lord and please give him credit and thanks. Thank you Bro. David Harris and God bless.

A FAITH OF OUR OWN

By David Harris

There comes a time in all our lives that we need to believe something because we find it to be true. Many Christians are Christians because of the upbringing of their faithful parents. This is both good and right. We are admonished by the Word to teach our children (Ephesians 6:4; Deuteronomy 4:9), and bring them to a knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4). When one is taught the truth, so he can be saved, then that person must be able to see for himself the truth that will save him. This is a time in our lives when “we” must become the “they” that we have been relying on all of our lives. In other words, we must grow up spiritually (1 Peter 2:2).

In John 4, after Jesus had His conversation with the woman at the well, she was convinced that He was the promised Christ (verse 29). She immediately went and shared this valuable information with the men of the city with whom she came in contact. Because of this woman’s willingness to share this good news, *“Many of the Samaritans of the city believed on him for the saying of the woman which testified, He told me all that ever I did”* (verse 39). These Samaritans were not satisfied with a belief based on the report of the woman only; they wanted a faith of their own. Here is a perfect example of how our faith grows (Romans 10:17). The text tells us that the Samaritans *“besought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days”* (John 4:40). One can only imagine how great it would be to listen to the Savior of the world in a setting such as this. What all did Jesus tell them? We can only imagine. One thing we do know is that His Word caused them to have faith; *“And many more believed because of his own words”* (John 4:41). This growth in their faith caused confidence, trusts, courage, and hope in their own words; *“and they said unto the woman, now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ the Savior of the world”* (John 4:42). These individuals now had a faith of their own, based on God’s Word, not the word of someone else.

When we study God’s Word we not only increase our faith, we gain confidence in what we believe, trust in what we know, gain courage in our ability to share this same good news with others, and most of all we obtain the *“grace and peace”* that is multiplied unto us through the *“knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord”* (2 Peter 1:2). No one can do it for us. We must increase our faith by our own diligent effort, through God’s inspired Word.