

20200830 Salvation of the Mind Pt1

Show slides ...

Building w/low ceiling- Watch Your Head, i.e. bang your head. Head injuries-serious. Christian's should have a sign-Watch Your Mind. Many- oblivious to how today's cultural ideas, philosophies, lies, and deceptions are infecting our minds leading to ungodly thoughts, conclusions, distorting our perspective of reality as we embrace ideas not in alignment with/Truth/principles of KofG.

This morning- talk about salvation of the mind.

Our current cultural moment hi-lights this with the incredible amount of misinformation/lies.

Politicians/news media have never been so dishonest/brazen in their lying/misinformation.

Proverbs 23:7 For as he thinks within himself, so he is ...

How we think will determine how we respond to what is happening in the world today.

Our thoughts can lead us to truth/deception.

Ideas shape the course of human history and bad ideas have victims.

I do not want to ...

>belittle- real pain some people feel- AND

>overlook that there is much room for improvement in our national story.

Peaceful protests/efforts to improve who we are as a nation- hijacked by elements who want to destroy- freedoms- country stands for.

Those elements taking advantage of- protests are promoting lawlessness/disregard for authority.

In the midst of- protests we have seen- burning of Bibles and increased attacks on churches. Once sacred ideas like freedom of speech, religion, and personal property- under attack. Governors/mayors are blocking churches from worshipping together- unconstitutional. If- can stop worship because of covid- they can shut down churches more nefarious reasons. Witnessing- clash of two very different ideologies. What makes these times so precarious- ungodly thoughts are being obscured with partial truths. Something can be true at one level but after digging into it, it is clear that it is not TRUTH. Young people- led to believe in ideals driven by socialist and marxist ideologies.

Ideals can become demonically inspired thoughts that may appear true but contradict the truths of God's Word. Bill Johnson

We must measure everything by- Word of God. We are in a battle for the heart/mind of our nation. If this is true in the conscience of a nation- it is also true in the conscience of the church.

What we think/believe about God, ourselves others, and our circumstances will determine how we respond to life.

As there is an intense battle for the minds of the citizens of our nation ...

There is also intense battle in the heavenlies for the minds of the sons/daughters of God.

The mind can be a mine field. A place where it is easy to step into a thought or idea that seems right on the surface but leads into a pit of ungodly thinking.

We understand the salvation of our spirit man- we are born again in the twinkling of an eye.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

However the Word also says ...

Philippians 2:12 ... work out your salvation with fear and trembling;

Salvation is not only to take away our sins, it is also to transform/renew our minds.

Jesus saved my soul, but the Word of God saved my mind. Christine Caine

Being born-again, as incredible as it is, is not the end goal- the beginning of an eternal process.

This is why Paul said ...

Phil 2:13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Rude awakening- God is not at work in our lives for our good pleasure, but for His purposes.

Jesus came as Savior- but also as Master/Lord.

As Savior- He opened the door for eternal life.

As Lord- He begins a life long work inside of us.

Romans 8:29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

The process of being conformed to be like Christ can sometimes be uncomfortable- because

God wants to invade every area of our heart and mind and reshape it.

God performed an incredible miracle when we were born again ...

Ephesians 2:6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

We have been set- heavenly places-rule w/Christ.

1 Cor 6:3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?

This is why we must get this right- we must become like Christ in our thinking.

Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

God wants to change- how we understand reality.

In- current cultural crisis whether concerning ...

>racism, police abuse,

>transgenderism, abortion

... we need to know the mind of God.

All kinds of ideas/conspiracy theories- but the bottom line is- what is God's heart/mind?

It is from that platform that we can take action.

To take action from any other platform will not lead to eternal, lasting benefits to society.

Bible- much to say about- issues we face today.

However, it is not enough to apply a biblical principle to some situation/cultural event.

We must know what God wants us to do with that truth or principle in that particular situation.

Look at Rom 12.2 move from the end/beginning.

First, God's will is always **good and acceptable and perfect.**

Regardless of what we might deal with in life, God's will is good, acceptable, and perfect.

Eph 5:17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Sometimes things happen we do not understand. That does not change the fact that God's will is good/acceptable/perfect.

Faith is living with the divine revelation we have with the mysteries we cannot explain.

God's thoughts go beyond our limited thinking ...

When we submit the things of God to the mind of man, unbelief and religiosity are the results. When we submit the mind of man to the things of God, we end up with faith and a renewed mind. Bill Johnson

Second, we want a renewed mind so we can **prove what the will of God is ...**

Prove- to approve/agree- God's will for our lives is Truth such that we embrace it and walk in it.

Obedience of belief is not the same as obedience of practice.

Q: When things do not go our way- does our response to that situation demonstrate- that we approve of God's will at that moment?

Third, we approve of God's will by allowing God to **transform us by renewing our minds.**

Unrenewed mind does not approve of-will of God. Being transformed is- take on the image of Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:49 Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

The mind is either renewed or it is at war w/God. The unrenewed mind has a mindset- a viewpoint, a bent that is hostile-God/authority/supremacy. The renewal process is God bringing our moral and spiritual vision into alignment with His. We need to carefully exam what we believe about this life against what the Bible says. Many are deceived by today's philosophies- and many lies/misinformation that surround us. Whether we are talking about ...

- >racism, police abuse
- >abortion, infanticide
- >homosexuality/transgenderism
- >polygamy, polyamorous relationships

None of these will be resolved by solutions that do not come from heaven.

i.e. many solutions we see for racism- are producing more separation between the races.

There is demonic wisdom- world has embraced-

James 3:15 This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.

James 3:17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

In all the cultural issues we face today- we must examine the claims of politicians, experts, news pundits in light of God's Word.

It is not my place to tell people how to live, but do not distort the truth of God's Word to support your personal moral perspective/agenda.

Men are masters of justification by taking the result they want and backing it into scripture.

We do not live in a vacuum- something will shape our mind/thinking/moral values/sensibilities.

If- do not allow God's Word to inform our thinking- will be shaped by today's cultural philosophies.

The renewing of our minds is a continual, ongoing process we must allow to happen.

Q:How much of my life/thinking reflects- values of this world rather than- values of the KofG?

Fourth- we are **not to be conformed to this world.**

If we allow ourselves- be shaped by- philosophies of this world it makes us useless to God.

God cannot use a man or woman whose mind is not subject to the will/Word of God.

In Conclusion

What leads us to Truth is not the psychology or philosophy of today, it is the Word of God.

John 8:31–32 (NASB95)

³¹So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine;

³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

You cannot believe a lie and expect- find freedom
This is why the sexual/moral revolution is doing so much damage and not bringing freedom.

i.e. the idea that sex is determined by how one feels does not stand up against- science/Bible. The foundations of today's moral culture are built on lies that will never set people free.

The way we live our lives begins w/how we think. Four ways-evaluate our thinking- do we have a ...

- >single mind- one focused on God over all the distractions this world throws at us
- >submissive mind- a mind yielded to the thoughts/principles of God/Kingdom
- >humble mind- not seeing ourselves as the end all of truth, willing to hear/learn
- >meeek mind- one that yields quickly without argument to God/His Word/His reality

Some of the stuff that happens in our lives is invited because of perverted thought patterns. Do not nurture ungodly thoughts by reviewing them over and over again in your mind.

2 Cor 10:5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, (Christ is- living word of God)

A renewed mind ...

- >is a mind more influenced by the word of god than by the words of this world
- >is our defense against deception
- >enables us to discern between good/evil
- >empowers us to give godly counsel and wisdom to others

Our challenge- learn to think like God thinks by studying His Word and listening for His heart.