

**“STEWARDING YOUR THOUGHTS”**

Sunday, October 30, 2016

In this series we are placing a special emphasis on *service* and *responsibility*—our responsibility in serving God in the sphere of influence He has placed each one of us in.

**1 Corinthians 4:2** Moreover it is **required** in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

**1 Thessalonians 5:24** Faithful *is* **He** that calleth you, **Who** also will do *it*.

Whatever God calls you to do, remember that He is faithful to give you the grace to do it. Seek to be a faithful steward of God.

### † Stewarding your Vote

Last week we considered the *stewardship of our privilege as a citizen to vote*. We have a **voice** where we can speak to the direction of this country by simply casting a vote. This is a sphere of influence that we have and should consider how God would have us take action with this stewardship. We looked to Scripture to see principles to bring encouragement and give some direction in *stewarding our vote*.

### † Stewarding your Thoughts

In this message on stewardship let’s consider how we **think**. Defeated Christian living comes from failing to *steward your thoughts*.

*Stewarding your thoughts* is an **intentional** process. It takes effort and repetition. It takes replacement of the old sinful thoughts with new Godly thoughts.

*Keep in mind*: Sinful thinking leads to sinful living. While Godly thinking leads to Godly living. In order to live RIGHT we must INTENTIONALLY think RIGHT.

## I. Understanding the WAY \_\_\_\_\_—Thoughts that lead to

The way down is the way of defeat. It is the way that we are prone to go. The way that leads away from God.

Q: What are your perceptions? In other words, “How do you think?”

BACKGROUND: The book of Joshua is a picture of victory in the Christian life.

The Promised Land = the land of \_\_\_\_\_

Before crossing the Jordan River = the land of \_\_\_\_\_

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What you think about determines your attitude and actions. The longer you think a certain way, the harder it is to think differently.

- ✓ Thoughts of anxiety and fear—“what if” this or that happens
- ✓ Thoughts of discouragement and despair
- ✓ Thoughts of anger and frustration
- ✓ Thoughts of bitterness and hatred
- ✓ Thoughts of guilt and shame (a guilty conscience is one of the greatest sources of defeat or noise in our souls)

These are Jerichos that lay before us in our Christian life, if not dealt with will keep us from having victory in our spiritual lives.

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## II. Understanding the WAY \_\_\_\_\_—Thoughts that lead to \_\_\_\_\_

Q: How do you plan to confront the Jerichos of your life?

**Joshua 6:2** And the LORD said unto Joshua, “See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, *and* the mighty men of valour.

Q: So how can you have victory over the Jericho’s in your life?

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### A. RENEW your \_\_\_\_\_ with God’s Stabilizing Truths (Romans 12:2)

**Romans 12:2** And be not conformed to this world [*age*]: but be ye transformed [*changed into something useful*] by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of **God**.

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Paul's goal for us in Rom 12:1 is that we would be *motivated* by "*the mercies of God*" to "*present*" ourselves as a willing, "*living sacrifice*" in our worship and that our worship would be "*holy*," "*acceptable*" and "*reasonable service*" to God—that our worship would be a "thought through" kind of worship where Christ is the focus. Paul's goal for each of us is that we are **intentional** in the way in which we worship the Lord.

As Christians, we must be an **instrument of change** seeing our own need to ever be **transformed** more into the **image of Christ**. As we change and reflect Christ, we can then be an instrument of change helping others to be transformed into the image of Christ.

**1. The thinking of this \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 2a)**

"*And be not conformed to this world:...*" – This is a call to a separated life—a holy life that is separated from sin and separated unto God.

Cf. Colossians 3:23; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Galatians 1:4

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For the Christian being "*conformed to this world*" carries the idea of acting in such a way that fails to properly reveal their redeemed nature within. This is a **hypocritical** lifestyle.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore if any man *be* in **Christ**, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Cf. 1 Peter 1:14-15

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**2. The thinking of this \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 2b)**

The way of RENEWING is the way of REPLACING.

**a. It is \_\_\_\_\_ thinking**

"*...but be ye transformed...*" – This word, "*transformed*" comes from the Greek word "*metamorpho*." I carries the idea of change—of place or condition—or being changed into another form.

We must get serious about this transformation process. It is a daily process of surrender. It is a daily process of change. **Being transformed is to be completely changed into something different than what you are.**

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Q: How can we then live a transformed life of worship when the world in which we live is dominated by sin?

b. It is \_\_\_\_\_ thinking

“...by the *renewing of your mind*,...” – This word “*renewing*” speaks of a **renovation**, in the sense of a reversal from the old mind to a new mind.

Cf. Titus 3:5

This **renewal** process is a **replacement** process. The old mind needs to be replaced with a new mind—the old thoughts must be replaced with new thoughts.

**Colossians 3:16** Let the Word of **Christ** dwell in you richly in all wisdom...

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**Colossians 3:10** And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of **Him** that created him:

It takes time in God’s Word to maintain a transformed life. There is a great cost involved.

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Q: Are you willing to pay the price? **Are you willing to take away time from something else in order to worship God with it?**

**2 Corinthians 3:18** But we all, with open face [*unobstructed view*] beholding as in a glass [*a mirror*] the glory of the **Lord**, are changed [*metamorphosis*] into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the **Spirit** of the **Lord**.

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The renewal process is the same process found in Ephesians 4:22-24 where we must seek to “*put off*” the old man of sin, “*renew*” our minds with the truth of God and His Word and “*put on*” Christ by seeking to live out the characteristics of Christ. This is Biblical change—this is the attitude of transformation.

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