

DON'T THROW YOUR HEAD AWAY, CHRISTIAN!

TEXT: Romans 12:2: And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, Will of God.

The world is filled with big heads — those that are high-minded, boastful, and proud. They have no heart, compassion, or kindness. This was prophesied 2000 years ago by the apostle Paul as one of the signs of the end time. This is what he said in:

2 Timothy 3:1-5:

¹ This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

³ Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

⁴ Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

⁵ Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Although the wicked are all head and no heart, we as Christians should not swing to the opposite extreme and be all heart and no head. God gave us a head and expects us to use it. In fact, this world will greatly benefit if Christians would use their heads more. We see the need of putting the brakes on occasionally to our head, but not to leave the brakes on on. Total reliance on the head is dangerous, also. We need more than reason — we need revelation.

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revelation.

Matthew 16:17: And Jesus answered and said unto him, "Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but My Father Who is in Heaven."



To put it better, in the language of our text: God renews our hearts when we're born again of the Spirit. He wants us to witness to a perishing world, and to declare what the Lord has done for our soul.

Now, besides renewing our hearts, Paul declares we need to be renewed in our minds. Before we criticize and accuse some atheists of slandering Christians, we should examine our

position and see if Christians are using their heads as they should. It would be possible to put to silence many gainsayers.

1 Peter 3:15: But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Note the words "Answer" for the one asking a "Reason".

1 Peter 2:15: For so is the Will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:

Titus 2:8: Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

Here it shows that the Bible does not prohibit thinking, reasoning, and instructing those who oppose them. Quite to the contrary, the Bible — if you are the least acquainted with it — provides important starting points for our thinking on the most important subjects. It tells us Who God is, reveals fully the purpose in the reason why Jesus came to earth, the problem of sin, and that Jesus provided way of deliverance. It tells us who we are, why we're here, and where we're going when we leave here. It shows us the dimensions of our responsibility for our actions and conduct, and the use of our time. It tells us where human history is going, how it all started, the beginning of this earth and its end, and the new world wherein dwells righteousness that shall never be destroyed.



It tells about the beginning and the end of Satan and the doom of the ungodly, plus the happiness of believers. God even invites people to reason in:

Isaiah 1:18: "Come now, and let us reason together," saith the LORD: "though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."



Acts 24:25: And as he [Paul] reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time . . .

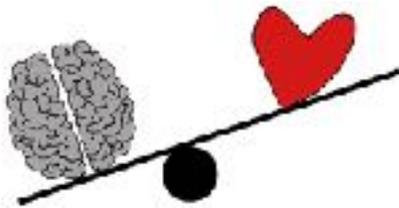
Acts 19:9-10:

⁹ But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the

disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.

¹⁰ And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the Word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

Those whose hearts are full of the Word of God are strong and can — by God's help — confound their adversaries by the Spirit of God. Herein lies the purpose of this text. Too often we try to help someone move toward God, try to dissolve their doubts, and destroy the deceptions satan has placed in their minds as defenses against the truth of the Gospel, but we fail because our minds are not



renewed. We have majored on the heart experience, and this is right. What is wrong is that we have not even minored on the mind. Christianity has mostly related to how we *feel* in our transformed hearts, and not to how we *think*, which so many have believed. However, this position is faulty. For Jesus said:

Proverbs 23:7: As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.

Genesis 6:5: And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Matthew 15:19: For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

Romans 8:6: For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Philippians 2:5: Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Psalms 119:59: I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto Thy testimonies.

Proverbs 12:5: The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit.

Romans 12:3: For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.



Philippians 4:8: Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Christianity deals with the heart alright, but it also is concerned with our heads. From the above scriptures, you can see clearly that our thinking affects our believing and our conduct. Paul, speaking to the saints at Corinth, said:



2 Corinthians 11:3: But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Luke 12:29: And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind.

That is why satan is going to deceive many in the last days. Jesus warned us of false prophets and many deceivers going out into the world that shall deceive many.

Matthew 7:15: Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Isn't it true that as a matter of fact most Christians become embarrassed and caught off balance whenever ordinary questions are asked them, either on the Bible and its teachings, or concerning their personal life and practice or conduct? When it comes to using their head and thinking, they have learned carefully to avoid any discussion that might tend to expose their weakness. That is precisely one of the lessons why life is so disappointing to a sinner for Christianity.

Many Christians are not equipped or even interested in proclaiming the good news of the Gospel to a broken, decaying generation. Many Christians feel — “*As long as I am saved, all is well*”. This has been the cause of breakdown and failure of the Gospel to provide effective answers to the needs of the lost.



True Christians living in the Spirit who have read the Bible and been fed by the Word of God should have more to offer the world — that plus my life is my testimony.

In the 12th Chapter of Romans, there is an excellent call to use our minds in faithful response to God's call that we may prove *what is that good, and acceptable and perfect Will of God.*

Romans 12:2: And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, Will of God.

This can only come about by the renewing of our minds. The Gospel of Christ is so powerful and all comprehensive that it leaves no part of man untouched. To be sure, it touches his heart, but it also touches his mind. It can transform it. After all, the summary which Jesus gave of the Ten Commandments concluded with the call to *love the Lord thy God . . . with all thy Mind.*



Mark 12:30: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first Commandment.

Luke 10:27: And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

Our mind is to be taken up into the great control of Christ. Paul said:

Philippians 2:5-7:

⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

⁷ But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:



There is no cause in the Christian life to become mindless idiots, whose minds are cordoned off so that they will become useless to Christ. The Gospel has a mighty transforming power, and that is why we should determine to keep our minds stayed on Christ, for He has promised:

Isaiah 26:3: Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee.

The World needs us now more than ever with a strong reason for the hope that is in us fearlessly given. The present moment in world history finds great nations armed to the teeth, and wars scorching the earth. Little real hope for the future is visible, and people's hearts are fainting from looking after the affairs of this life. More people are now concluding that human life is essentially meaningless, and they are in deep despair with no hope. As a prominent lecturer put the present state of modern thought this way:



"The lunatics are running the asylum."

Today we need Christian answers to man's pressing problems, and to turn them to Christ on Whom we are stayed.

The other day a professional man said, *"Why do I have to turn my mind off when I enter church?"* You don't have to turn your mind off when you become a Christian. In fact, you need to turn it on to Christ more. When we recognize that our minds are in our way and can cause us to drift away from Christ because we can't get them off of the trivial things of this life, it is because they need a renewing, as our text declares. Why? Because they are still carnal, and a carnal mind is an enemy to one's spiritual life. One of the reasons Christians are so uninteresting and intellectually sterile is because they are lazy mentally and fail to feed on wholesome and nourishing truths. We should have something to give to him that needeth. Jesus said:



Matthew 13:52: Then said He unto them, "Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the Kingdom of Heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old."

Have you something to give others in the name of Christ?

Colossians 2:3: In Whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge

Those of you who have lived in a superficial faith expressed only in fleeting moments when the Spirit is moving in the church, but then freezes over when you meet the world, you have not helped too much the cause of Christ and need a renewing of that mind of yours. Our dust-covered Bibles will testify in the Day of

Judgment against us. Also, the lost soul whom we didn't reach with Bible answers for their perplexing needs. Peter said in:

1 Peter 2:2: As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby:

We should never outgrow our desire for the Word. We only outgrow the milk diet, for *strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age.*

We should never outgrow our desire for the Word.

Hebrews 5:13: For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the Word of Righteousness: for he is a babe.

Hebrews 5:14: But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

We are to be skilled in our use of the Bible. This passage in God's Word is telling us so:

1 Peter 3:15: But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Until our minds are renewed, they are full of blunders by incorrect thinking. They will get us into all kinds of trouble with one another, even toward the ones we love and wouldn't want to hurt for anything in the world. Here is the apostle Peter, a saved man, but with his mind yet unrenewed, he begins rebuking Jesus:



Matthew 16:22-23:

²² Then Peter took Him, and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto Thee."

²³ But He turned, and said unto Peter, "Get thee behind Me, satan: thou art an offence unto Me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men."

Do you see what has happened here? Jesus just had prophesied that He must go to Jerusalem, suffer many things, be killed, and be raised the third day. Peter, operating from his carnal mind, completely reversed Jesus' words. That is what the carnal mind will do — tell the opposite of what is really true. That realization has just come to me from the Lord as He started to illuminate my mind and renew it, so I don't fall out with the atheist, infidel, agnostic, illiterate minds of seemingly educated people. Many of them know everything about nothing. Paul put it this way:

2 Timothy 3:7: Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

And this next verse is a good one to consider memorizing:

2 Timothy 2:7: Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

In how many things? In ALL things. Oh, then go with me to that marvelous scripture in:



Ephesians 4:17-23:

¹⁷ This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

¹⁸ Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

¹⁹ Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

²⁰ But ye have not so learned Christ;

²¹ If so be that ye have heard Him, and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:

²² That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

²³ And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

You cannot find the truth outside of Him, for He is the Truth.

Get this, beloved. You cannot find the truth outside of Him, for He is the Truth.

John 14:6: Jesus saith unto him, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me."

Now, when we learn about Christ and have been taught by Him, we find there are two things we are to do after we become Christians.

One involves putting off the old man which is corrupt (verse 22 below).

Two involves renewing the mind (verse 23 below).

Ephesians 4:22-23:

²² That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

²³ And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

Time forbids here to take up the meaning of the putting off of the old man, who he is, what he does, as it will take another message in its entirety for the subject to be complete.

Paul uses two men as examples of this carnal, unrenewed mind who withstood Moses way back there in Egypt. We never learned the names of the magicians who challenged Moses before Pharaoh until Divine illumination and revelation came to the apostle Paul, and here is what he said:

2 Timothy 3:8: Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth; men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

Here you see that the carnal mind, unrenewed by the Spirit of God, resists the truth. Isn't that what Peter did when he rebuked Jesus? Sure. And herein is the cause of all our problems in the church. The unregenerate resist the truth that Jesus is the Only Saviour from sin, so they try to be saved themselves their own way. Even after people are saved, many resist the truth about sanctification and say, "we cannot live holy". But the Scripture says:



Ephesians 4:24: And that ye put on the New Man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

... there is a false kind of holiness.

This putting on the new is created — notice that word here — in righteousness and true holiness, showing there is a false kind of holiness. It is not hard for me to accept this which is in the following Scripture:

1 Peter 1:15-16:

¹⁵ But as He which hath called you is Holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

¹⁶ Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am Holy.

The new man with this renewed mind says, "Amen, Lord". The unrenewed mind — even in Christians — says, "It can't be done. No one can live above sin". Have you ever heard that? Sure, that's the unrenewed mind talking, and it's the very reverse and opposite of what is factually true.

Paul — speaking of the putting on the new man in **Colossians 3:10** — gives us this additional truth which I would like only to mention here since it fits so appropriately in our subject.

Colossians 3:10: And have put on the New Man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him Who created him:

This inspires me to seek for a renewed mind, for it will save us all from a lot of heartache caused by our ignorance of the truth. Paul would have been saved the embarrassment of his earlier days in the ministry over Barnabas, John Mark, and in calling the high priest a whited sepulcher, for which he had to take backwater or as we say today, apologize to the offended parties.

So to be renewed in knowledge like what Adam had before the Fall, is a restoration we all could stand a lot of. For Adam was not dumb before the Fall, to those who know your Bible. At least seven things happened in his transgression:

- 1. He lost for us the higher plane of knowledge, far excelling and superior to what we know today.**
- 2. He lost eternal life.**
- 3. He lost physical life.**
- 4. He lost the beautiful garden of God.**
- 5. He lost the Presence of God.**
- 6. He lost the blessed ground which was tilled free from thorns, thistles, briars, and destructive insects and pests.**
- 7. He lost the close fellowship with the animals, for their nature changed into savage and ravenous beasts, and communication with them was broken.**



One day Jesus took Peter, James, and John and brought them up into a high mountain where He was transfigured before them.



His clothes glistened like the light and His face shone like the sun. Suddenly, Moses and Elijah appeared — two of the greatest of the Jewish prophets — to speak of Jesus of His upcoming death on the cross for the salvation of the whole world. For, Jesus is God's Unblemished Lamb, and the time has finally arrived for Him to give His life for lost and hopeless humanity to be redeemed and

saved from their sins. But what happens?

Peter pops up with this nice suggestion: “*Jesus, it's so good to be up here. Let's build three tabernacles here — one for You, one for Moses and one for Elijah.*” Now

the natural fleshly mind could go easily for that idea, for two of the greatest of the Jewish Prophets are here, and to keep them here would be a great help to the nation of Israel. But this is not God's plan and purpose for Christ's coming the first time. That is the reason for Moses and Elijah being here to speak to Jesus of His sacrifice on the Cross to save the world. If Jesus could be swayed by this idea, the whole purpose of Jesus' Coming would be defeated, and our souls would be lost and forever doomed to spend eternity in sin and torment in Hell as prisoners of satan.

So God stepped down from His throne, gathered thick clouds about Him — for no man can see Him in His natural state and live — descended to just above the mountain, and spoke out loud and clear:

Matthew 17:5: While He yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a Voice out of the cloud, which said, "This is My Beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him."



"This is My Beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased, HEAR YE HIM"

That's all that was said, as no more was needed. The more words, the less it would be remembered. It struck home.

CONCLUSION:

Question: What is the renewed mind?

Answer: It is a mind that no longer relies wholly on reason for facts, but on Divine Revelation. It is a mind illuminated by The Spirit of God which allows it to see that to which human reason is blind.