



Scripture: Gal 6:6-8; Romans 10:10-5

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No one knows the heart of man as does God, his Creator. Not only has He set the rules for the operation of the world, He has established the laws for society as a whole and for individual men as well. In a terse statement He reveals this truth to His ancient people Israel, "**See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil ...**" (Deuteronomy 30:15). If Israel obeys His Law, they will discover the secret of a full, enriching life which will lead to a prosperity that will not only stand the tests of time, but of eternity as well.

However, if God's Law is broken, Israel will know only adversity, death, and wretchedness. In the twenty-eighth chapter of Deuteronomy, God's blessings and curses are set forth, showing what they may expect from Him depending upon their conduct of obedience or rebellion.

As in the physical world, so in the spiritual world; to break a law is only to be broken by it. Following the laws of his craft, a chemist can make wonderful things from the elements of his trade. To violate chemical law, however, is but to blow oneself into eternity. By ignoring God's spiritual laws, mankind's life is but a series of continuous moral, spiritual, and social explosions.

God did not create us to victim upon one another. Rather He would have us pray to Him and study His Word so that we might live together as He intended us to do. It is through the study of His Word and our determination to think and act

biblically that we can become a miracle people in a world of marvels, living godly lives among godless men.

The Proverb sets forth the first law of biblical thinking: "**Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.**" (**Proverbs 4:23**). Mankind has heart trouble in more ways than one. Physical trouble with the heart is serious, spiritual trouble with the heart is disastrous.

Man separated from his Maker is lost. Apart from God, he cannot be anything else. He is in darkness, and everything he does is to no purpose. In all his attempts to help meet the needs of his fellowman, he meets with failure. Well has Isaiah said, "**To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to his word, it is because there is no light in them**" (**Isaiah 8:20**). As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.

Generally, when the Bible speaks of the heart it has in mind the emotional life of man. And we do not need to argue that man often does what he feels like doing, even though it is against his better judgment. Consequently, the admonition for the guarding of our hearts. As Solomon so well knew, the heart can be deceitful, and the lips perverse. Man can be distracted from what he knows he should do by his greed and selfishness, by working against himself and his welfare man becomes his own victim (see **Proverbs 4:24-25**). From experience the wise king of old could write, "**Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. Do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.**" (**Proverbs 4:26-27**).

The New Testament also encourages us to biblical thinking through the study of the Gospels and the Epistles. After coming to know the Lord as our Savior, we are bidden by Him to come to know Him by learning of Him. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30). The Christian is to "learn" of Christ.

This involves two things: surrender to Him and studying the Word to learn of Him. The term learn in the Greek text gives us our word mathematics, which leads to a pun of grace. What our Lord is telling us is to "figure me out — learn of me," and by doing this, we can become at home with our Lord. And such a knowledge of our Savior will cause us to keep our hearts "with all diligence."

In His Sermon on the Mount, our Lord again emphasizes the necessity of knowing God's Word if we are to be the people God intends us to be. He reaffirms His caution by pointing out that man is too concerned with material things which lead to greed and selfishness.

Man cannot build a world with bad bricks. He cannot make a better society if he himself is sick. Thus, our Lord puts first things first. Man must be right with God before he will be just with his fellows.

So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your

heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well Matthew 6:31-33

There is no doubt of the fact that godless men cannot live godly lives. Furthermore, they have no interest in thinking biblically. The Bible is the enemy of the godless man, for it rebukes his conduct at every turn. This is bad enough, but there is something which is even worse. Many of us, indeed, too many of us who name the Name of Christ, are just as bad as the godless man, except we have tried to find Scriptures to veneer our vices with rationalized virtues which, by the way, do not deceive God. God is not interested in our lip service, only in our life service.

In the first chapter of his first epistle, John makes this abundantly clear. "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie if we say that we have no sin we deceive ourselves If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar ..." (1 John 1:6, 8, 10). As saints, we seem to be off duty more than we are on duty, living for our Lord. Our arrogance, pride, tempers, deceitfulness, selfishness, and secret sins betray us. Many of us do not study God's Word because it rebukes us. We can rationalize and justify our conduct, but God is not interested in excuses. He is only interested in one thing — confession; not with the lips, but with the heart. He would have us take sides against ourselves in favor of Him (see 1 John 1:9).

When our hearts are wrong because of the evil within, it is bound to show in our conduct. We can be verbally orthodox and at the same time be extremely liberal. God is far more interested in what we are doing than what we are saying.

What we say is governed by our heart, for our mouth is the billboard of our heart (see [Matthew 15:18](#)).

There are times when Christians use the Scriptures, or rather, misuse them, to avoid doing God's will. A friend of mine fell in love with a girl and came to my home to tell me all about it. When he told me whom she was, I admired his choice. Alice was a beautiful girl who could offset his ruggedness; Alice had money, which was not to be ignored. She had brains to go with her beauty, which would be helpful to my friend; she had great ability, which would prove to be an asset to my friend. Among other things she was a Baptist, as was my friend Bill. But I had reason to believe that she was not a Christian.

Bubbling over with joy and love for his discovery, Bill asked me if I would pray that he might find favor in Alice's sight. I promptly refused by telling him we knew God's mind without praying. Believers and unbelievers are not to be unequally yoked together (see [2 Corinthians 6:14](#)).

How can two walk together unless they are agreed? (see [Amos 3:3](#)). I insisted that prayer would be the worst form of spiritual politics, for we would be asking that our will be done instead of God's will. He argued with me, pointing out what a wonderful asset she would be for the Lord if we were to pray that she would come to know Him.

I agreed, a witness for the Lord she could be, but not a wife for my friend. When we rationalize our way to doing our own will as opposed to the will of God,

we are headed for trouble. When we begin to think biblically, the first truth we discover is that we must always be on the level with God.

The psalmist has said: "**Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday**" (**Psalms 37:5,6**), and Solomon adds: "**Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths**" (**Proverbs 3:5,6**)

We must determine to be on the level with God if biblical thinking is to be of value to us. Our prayer must be: "**Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting**" (**Psalms 139:23,24**).

The Means to Biblical Thinking

"**Take my yoke upon you and learn of me,**" the Savior said. This indicates that biblical thinking has two outstanding characteristics — **knowledge** and **obedience** — **knowledge** of God's Word, and the **obedience** of a surrendered will.

In His farewell address to His disciples prior to His going to the cross, the Lord Jesus told His disciples that He would send the Holy Spirit, who would bring to their remembrance what He had taught them. Furthermore, the Holy Spirit would continue His ministry in the hearts of believers by causing God's Word to come alive in their hearts.

Therefore, through the study of the Word and a surrendered will ready to obey the Word, a Christian would come into the full blessing of biblical thinking. **The Holy Spirit**, as the spirit of truth, uses the Scriptures to teach all men and women what is pleasing to God as far as their lives are concerned. Thus Paul refers to the Scriptures as "**the sword of the Spirit**" (see **Ephesians 6:17**), and **encourages the believer to make the Word a part of his Christian armor**. The apostle Peter joins the apostle Paul by exhorting us to feed upon God's Word, that we may grow thereby (see **1 Peter 2:2,3**). Through the study of God's Word we not only learn how to live a Christ-like life, we also come to know the reason for living such a life. "**But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,**" (**1 Peter 3:15**). Therefore we can give an intelligent answer to those who ask us the reason for our Christian conduct.

It may be that some of you who are hearing these words have no interest in the Bible at all. In fact, you may be aggressively and argumentatively opposed to it. Do not be surprised, for the Bible states this is the natural reaction of a person who does not believe in the God of the Bible and has no use for His Word (see **Romans 8:7,8**).

Though this may not be true of you, Paul indicates that the man who knows not God is a man who is a victim of mental vanity, heartless cruelty, and deadly self-love (see **Ephesians 4:17-19**). And in his brash pride, he is a man who thinks God and His Word is beneath him — for morons only, as the Greek word for

foolishness would indicate (see **1 Corinthians 2:14**). Such a person is continually at war with God.

To those of us who would serve our Lord, let us study His Word that we may think His thoughts after Him. When we realize that we have the high privilege to live for Him who died for us, as "**new men in Christ Jesus**" let us so master the art of biblical thinking that in turn the Bible may master us. Then we shall fulfill the desire of our heavenly Father who would have us "**... to be conformed to the image of his Son ...**" (**Romans 8:29**)