



1867



1899



1905



1950



1974



2009

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TOWNSEND-SMITH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

A CARING CLASS

FEBRUARY STUDY THEME: BATTLE FOR THE MIND

February 7, 2010 Lesson: "Are You In The Right Mind?"

Scripture Passage: Romans 8:5-8; 1 Corinthians 2:12-16; 2 Cor. 4:3-4

One of the greatest battles that Christians face today is the battle for our minds.

[Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Phil 2:4-6 (KJV)]

From every direction our culture bombards us with a barrage of messages. Some of them are benign, and others are not. **If we dwell on the ungodly messages of our culture, they will sabotage our spiritual health and well being.** In Scripture, God places tremendous emphasis on what we put on our minds and **how it affects our relationship with Him.** Television in particular, and also other media such as newspapers, and books, show and print things today that they would have not thought of doing years ago. Vulgar language, and pornography are constantly are shown to us on television even though we don't continue to watch when we find out what they are, we see them for a short time, never the less. A popular belief in our society today is that our minds are capable of purely rational thinking apart from any particular mindset. This notion leads to the false belief that people can be mentally or even morally neutral. However, the mind is not neutral at all, **especially when it comes to the things of God.** **The mind is either set on loving and obeying God, or it rejects God and does what the flesh desires.** [The Apostle Peter said, "Be sober, be vigilant, for your adversary, the Devil, as a roaring lion walketh about seeking whom he may devour."] You may think that you are immune, but watch out! Satan has more subtle ways than you have ever thought about. What then can we do? Just remember this, **Christians don't have to sin, they do sin because they choose to do so!** There is no middle ground. We need to be sobered by this reality so we will take what happens on the battlefield of the mind seriously. The world we live in is naturally opposed to Christ's rule. The mindset of the Christian must be radically different, which means we reject filling our minds with what the world loves. Rather, **the only way for Christians to live day by day is to seek to have the mind of Christ, constantly!**

Our Bible study of the month is entitled, **"Battle for The Mind."** The Bible study for this week examines three key Bible passages that explain the difference between the mind-set of believers and unbelievers. In them Paul contrasted the flesh and the Spirit, blindness and sight, and human wisdom versus the mind of Christ. As we study this lesson ask God to help you see the difference between each mind set and discern which one you have. Seek God's help to learn to set your mind on what pleases Him.

"Set your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are on the earth." [Colossians 3:2]



FLESH vs. SPIRIT [Romans 8:5-8]

⁵ For those whose lives are according to the flesh think about the things of the flesh, but those whose lives are according to the Spirit, about the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For the mind-set of the flesh is death, but the mind-set of the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For the mind-set of the flesh is hostile to God because it does not submit itself to God's law, for it is unable to do so. ⁸ Those whose lives are in the flesh are unable to please God.

BLINDNESS vs. SIGHT [2 Corinthians 4:3-4]

³ But if, in fact, our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ Regarding them: the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers so they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

HUMAN WISDOM vs. THE MIND OF CHRIST [1 Corinthians 2:12-16]

¹² Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, in order to know what has been freely given to us by God. ¹³ We also speak these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual things to spiritual people. ¹⁴ But the natural man does not welcome what comes from God's Spirit, because it is foolishness to him; he is not able to know it since it is evaluated spiritually. ¹⁵ The spiritual person, however, can evaluate everything, yet he himself cannot be evaluated by anyone. ¹⁶ For: who has known the Lord's mind, that he may instruct Him?

But we have the mind of Christ.

Romans 1:21

"For though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or show gratitude. Instead, their thinking became nonsense, and their senseless minds were darkened."

Vance Havner

"We cannot change our hearts, but we can change our minds; and when we change our minds, God will change our hearts."

Lasting Lessons

[1] Believers should not fear the criticisms of worldly thinking.

[2] The Spirit of God makes known spiritual truth.

[3] Believers should seek and trust God's wisdom as revealed in the Bible.

[4] If we are to have the mind of Christ, we need to spend time consistently in His presence and in His Word.

