

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

January 9, 2012

Issue No. 24 Mark Aites, Editor

Thought

"Thinking evil is much the same as doing it." – Greek Proverb

"Your thoughts are a machine you can learn to operate." – Anonymous

Actually, the Bible has quite a bit to say about our thoughts. "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Gen 6:5). "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he" (Prov 23:7). "The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts" (Ps 10:4). "The LORD knows the thoughts of man, that they are futile" (Psa. 94:11). "The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD..." (Prov 15:26).

It is obvious that man gets himself into a lot of trouble because of His thoughts. But then isn't that the very thing that Jesus pointed out when He said, "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies" (Matt 15:19). But since this is the case, what are we to do?

The apostle Paul suggests two very strong courses of action that we must follow if we are going to get a handle on these powerful thoughts. First, he warns about getting control of them. "Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor 10:5). Thayer tells us the Greek word *captive* means "to subjugate, to bring under control." Nowhere does it say this is easy, but a child of must learn to bring his thoughts under control. Second, Paul tells us that we need to refocus. "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things" (Phil 4:8). Again it takes will power to so control one's thoughts that you force yourself to think on good things.

One realizes that what goes on in the thoughts are a person's own private world. From the time we are children we fantasize perhaps of being a super hero, or one day being president. But as we age, those fantasies can become very ugly. Many terrible things have been contemplated.

James warns us that if we don't get a handle on things, we may well find ourselves doing the very things we know we shouldn't (James 1:14-15).