

Becoming Heavenly Minded

September 2017

Sunday School #2

Review

- I. Wherefore, the “minding of the Spirit” or “to be spiritually minded” is the actual exercise of the mind as renewed by the Holy Ghost,
 - A. 1 Corinthians 2:16 For “who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.
 1. From Saul to Paul
 - B. Btw. spiritual mindedness is another grace.
- II. This includes your hopes and aspirations and yearnings,
 - A. “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.” (Colossians 3:1–2, NKJV)
 - B. “For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.” (Philippians 3:18–19, NKJV)
 1. New mind is like pregnancy. When you have a child growing within you your tastes change.
 2. Also, like Anne of Green Gables and Gilbert Blythe
 - a) As she gets older, her tastes change.
 3. You become pleased and satisfied with heavenly life
 - a) Galatians 5:24 And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
 - b) Philippians 3:7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

Main Lesson:

- I. How is spiritual mindedness displayed?
 - A. Your thoughts: What are some examples of spiritual thoughts?

1. For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. (Proverbs 23:7)
 2. If your thoughts are spiritual, then you are spiritual.
- B. Actually it is voluntary thoughts
1. Just as the garden tells you much of the soil, so too do your voluntary thoughts tell us much of your spiritual condition.
- C. Demonstration
1. Genesis 6:5 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.
 2. Matthew 12:35 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.
 3. Matthew 12:33 “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit.
 4. “Out of his good treasure a good man brings forth good things. The first opening of it, the first bringing of it forth, is by these thoughts. The thoughts that arise out of the heart are of the same nature with the treasure that is in it. If the thoughts that naturally arise and spring up in us are for the most part vain, foolish, sensual, earthly, selfish, such is the treasure that is in our hearts, and such are we; but where the thoughts that thus naturally proceed from the treasure that is in the heart are spiritual and holy, it is an argument that we are spiritually minded.”
- D. Reminder: They must be your natural thoughts.
1. Not thoughts inwardly forced upon you.
 - a) You can become grieved in an ungodly way or temporarily embarrassed and thus inwardly force yourself to dwell on spiritual things.
 - b) Water naturally goes down, but with a super soaker you can force it in an unnatural direction. Likewise with your thoughts and mindset.
 - (1) E.g. of ungodly grief leading to unnatural spiritual mindedness:
Psalm 78:34-37 When He slew them, then they sought Him; And they returned and sought earnestly for God. Then they remembered that God was their rock, And the Most High God their Redeemer. Nevertheless they flattered Him with their mouth, And they lied to Him with their tongue; For their heart was not steadfast with Him, Nor were they faithful in His covenant.

(2) Difference between the flow of a natural spring and a thunder shower.

(a) Natural spring= constant although sometime interrupted

(b) Thunder shower= in a violent rush, but soon dried up

2. Not thought outwardly forced upon you.

a) Preaching of the Word

(1) Matt. 13:20 But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

(2) When the doctrine of the word falls on such persons as showers of rain, it gives a course, sometimes greater, sometimes less, unto their thoughts towards spiritual things; but they have not a well of water in them springing up into everlasting life. Wherefore, after a while their minds are dried up from such thoughts; nothing remains in them but earth, and that perhaps foul and dirty.

b) Owen cites at least these two verses justifying such analysis. In his work, he specifically mentions hypocrites performing in a National Church. Apparently, if you were good at the liberal arts, then you could serve in the Church. He is not trying to break a bruised reed.

(1) 2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

(2) Psalm 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; 24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.