

Thinking With God's Word

Reid Temple AME Church

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Five Important Concepts - 5 “P’s”

- ◉ Thinking with God’s word is an ongoing process that involves thinking about five important concepts about God
- ◉ God’s person
- ◉ God’s plan
- ◉ God’s principles
- ◉ God’s purposes
- ◉ God’s promises

The Cry for Help or Unbelief

- ◉ Joshua 7:1-11 Cry of unbelief
- ◉ Joshua 7:6-9 trials of life including times of defeat are tools of growth or instruments God uses to correct, instruct and change us.
- ◉ Israel went from the thrill of victory to the agony of defeat which demoralized the people and the leadership.
- ◉ Joshua prayed but he was not praying in faith and thinking in terms of God's word.

Four Deadly Errors

- ⦿ They remained ignorant of the sin of Achan.
- ⦿ They underestimated the strength of the enemy.
- ⦿ They overestimated the strength of their own army.
- ⦿ They presumed on the Lord—the too God for granted.
- ⦿ How often are we just like Joshua in Ch. 7.

Joshua 7:5 Defeated and Demoralized

- ⦿ Defeat creates misgivings and a lack of hope or confidence in the purpose and power of God.
- ⦿ We are so quick to become depressed, discouraged, and disoriented because of our human nature.
- ⦿ We look in every direction for a reason but to ourselves.

God's Personal Involvement: Rise Up

- ⊙ God cares about our lives and is working to reveal Himself and teach us about ourselves and what we need to be doing as we walk the path of faith. 1 Pet. 5:6-7.
- ⊙ God gives a command to Joshua to Rise Up! God wants us to rise up out of our condition.
- ⊙ Staying in the same state dishonors God's promises, person and neutralizes God.

The Explanation to Joshua

- ⦿ Israel has sinned; they violated the covenant which God commanded them to keep.
- ⦿ Israel had taken some of the devoted things they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions.
- ⦿ The consequences of Israel's failure caused them not to be able to stand against their enemies.
- ⦿ Israel is defeated because of sin in the camp.

The Ability To Living Victoriously

- ⦿ In Christ we have the capacity to live victoriously for the Lord regardless of what we face
- ⦿ The ability to live victoriously depends on fellowship and walking in the light. 1 Jn 1:5-9.
- ⦿ Created in the image of God we are rational creatures with the ability to study, evaluate, and think through issues.

Our Minds Need Renewal

- ⦿ Our minds need renewal through the regular intake from the Word so that we might exchange our thoughts for God's.
- ⦿ We must concentrate, captivate, and control our minds by learning and actively applying God's principles. 2 Cor. 10:4-5; Phil. 4:8.
- ⦿ Unless we practice this process we will measure success and godliness by the wrong standard.

Spiritual Warfare Language

- ◉ Weapons of our warfare
- ◉ Destroying
- ◉ Taking captive
- ◉ For a soldier to be able to fight, he must have weapons.
- ◉ To carry out ministries assigned to us we must have weapons.
- ◉ Our weapons are not of the flesh

The Nature of the Battle

- ⦿ Christian warfare must be carried on by faith in the Lord and in the powerful weapons given to us in Christ.
- ⦿ The purpose of our warfare is destruction or tearing down of strongholds or fortresses.
- ⦿ The purpose of our warfare is to make firm or strong or create a place of protection.
- ⦿ Human strategies are no substitute for the Lord's salvation and strength.

Man's Ideas and Strategies

- ◉ Man's ideas and strategies are not only contradictory to the Word and divine viewpoint.
- ◉ Man's ideas and strategies are hindrances to the knowledge of God and what knowing God means as it relates to His work and salvation.
- ◉ We must take every thought captive in exalted reasoning that opposes the truth about God.

The Products of our Thinking

- ⦿ We need the Holy Spirit to look at anything that is the product of our thinking process.
- ⦿ Every thought must be subservient to the Lord so that it results in our obedience to God.
- ⦿ We have to therefore learn how to listen to our thoughts and then hear and obey the word of God by faith.
- ⦿ Obedience stems from living from the Word of God and listening to the Lord.

Philippians 4:8

- ⦿ We are not only to think about these things, but we are to think these things.
- ⦿ Instead of bitterness, revenge, frustration, fear, and all that accompanies such downward focus we are to have our minds filled with all that should accompany a focus on the Lord and the truth of His word.
- ⦿ We are to put a stop to our worrying by taking things to God in prayer.

Eph 1:11; Rom. 8:29-29

- ⊙ Eph. 1:11 stresses the fact of God's activity in the world. It points to God's immanence.
- ⊙ Immanence means that God pervades and sustains the universe.
- ⊙ All things points us to the extent of God's involvement and sovereign control. Nothing is excluded.
- ⊙ None of the events in our lives are isolated from God's plan.

Lesson Summary

- ⦿ 5-P's = God's Person, Plan, Principles, Purposes, Promises.
- ⦿ Trials of life are tools of growth or instruments God uses to correct and change us.
- ⦿ Defeat creates misgivings and lack of hope or confidence in the purpose and power of God.
- ⦿ God cares about our lives and is working to reveal Himself and teach us about ourselves.
- ⦿ All things points us to the extent of God's involvement and sovereign control.

See You on Sunday!

- ⦿ 7:30 - Rev. Washington
- ⦿ 9:30 - Rev. Watley
- ⦿ 10:30 - Rev. Washington
- ⦿ Have you won a soul to Christ this year?
- ⦿ Bring a friend to Reid this week.
- ⦿ Come expecting to join in the Celebration
- ⦿ Blessings!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!