“God First” Series – Pt.3

“What Are You Thinking?

Matt. 22:37-38 / Matt. 6:33 / Matt. 6:21 / Col. 3:2

Matt. 22:37-38

“You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment.

Matt: 6:33-34

*33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. 34 “So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.*

Matt. 6:21

“*For where your treasure is, there also is your heart”.*

As mentioned previously, our New Year’s Spiritual Resolution” this year is that we develop hearts that “Seek First Gods Kingdom”! If we would come to a place in doing this, Jesus says “we will have everything we need”. Whether that is physical needs or spiritual needs.

We started our series “God First” by first looking at our hearts where God ranked in our lives by asking if we are putting Him first in everything...our time, our relationships and especially our finances. Then last week we looked to show God our devotion by giving him our soul and devoting our time & lives to him completely by keeping watch and continuing to learn so our soul is not deceived.

We need to constantly be aware that in today’s world, there are many things that compete for 1st place and most important in our lives, things always trying to keep God out of 1st place in our hearts & lives. With that being said, the reason for this series is follow this command in ordered to love the Lord your God with all our heart, soul, and mind & ensure we are putting “God First” above everything in every aspect of our life! It is an urgent call to check our own lives and is considered by Jesus to be the greatest commandment. This means every area of our life, even the most uncomfortable of areas of our lives...

This week we’ll be closing up the series and asking do you, will you, love the Lord your God… with your mind?

The human mind is one of the most incredible aspects of creation. It is more powerful than the largest supercomputer and can solve great problems and make great discoveries.

* *Your brain isn't fully formed*[*until age 25*](https://www.nm.org/healthbeat/healthy-tips/four-things-about-your-teens-developing-brain)*. - Brain development begins from the back of the brain and works its way to the front. Therefore, your frontal lobes, which control planning and reasoning, are the last to strengthen and structure connections.*
* *Your brain’s storage capacity is considered*[*virtually unlimited*](https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/what-is-the-memory-capacity/)*. - Research suggests the human brain consists of about*[*86 billion neurons*](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19226510)*. Each neuron forms connections to other neurons, which could add*[*up to 1 quadrillion (1,000 trillion) connections*](https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/11/101117121803.htm)*. Over time, these neurons can combine, increasing storage capacity.*
* *Brain information travels up to an impressive*[*268 miles per hour*](https://www.discovermagazine.com/health/numbers-the-nervous-system-from-268-mph-signals-to-trillions-of-synapses)*. - When a neuron is stimulated, it generates an electrical impulse that travels from cell to cell.*
* *It’s a myth that you only use*[*10 percent of your brain*](https://www.nm.org/healthbeat/healthy-tips/ten-surprising-facts-about-your-brain)*. You actually use all of it. (Yes, even when you are sleeping.) Neurologists confirm that your brain is always active.*
* *A piece of brain tissue the size of a grain of sand contains 100,000 neurons and*[*1 billion synapses*](https://www.nbcnews.com/sciencemain/human-brain-may-be-even-more-powerful-computer-thought-8C11497831)*.*
* *The human brain can generate about*[*23 watts of power*](https://www.inc.com/john-brandon/25-amazing-facts-about-the-human-brain-you-should-probably-memorize.html)*(enough to power a lightbulb).*

The mind is amazing and is so powerful, but how can we love God with all our mind? This morning our plan is to examine the Word of God as to how, why, and where this is possible.

As a Christian, we can logically love God with our mind; and it makes perfect sense, otherwise Jesus wouldn’t have made it the “greatest commandment.”God created us in His image. He placed the Earth and “everything that creeps upon the Earth” under our “dominion.” God gave man a higher intelligence than the animals. Though we’re not the only creature that can learn, what differs us from any other created being is that we can receive information, reason on it, problem solve, come to understanding, draw a conclusion, then plan a course of action.

There was a TV show called “What were you thinking”. It was a show where people do stupid things like pick up a snake or try to fly off of a barn roof with some made wings or whatever. It makes for good comedy but if we are honest, I think we can all ask ourselves of some of our thoughts, “WHAT AM I THINKING?”

Your thoughts and how you think are going to be the key to a closer walk with God in 2023. Your future is determined by what you let stay in your mind and who you allow to control your thoughts. Are your thoughts going to be selfish or Godly? Godly thoughts are the key to a good life.

The Bible has a lot to say about thoughts. A Godly thought process is the seed of a Godly future.

* Watch your thoughts; they become words.
* Watch your words; they become actions.
* Watch your actions; they become habits.
* Watch your habits; they become character.
* Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

It’s important we keep our mind fixed or as Col. 3:2 says, “set”on things that are above”. Is. 26:3 “You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you.”

A wandering mind is the beginning of a wandering life. The way you think can and will hinder your ability to follow God properly. So how do we set our minds on Godly things...?

1. Take Responsibility for your Thoughts

* 2 Cor. 10:3-5

*3 We are human, but we don’t wage war as humans do. 4 We use God’s mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. 5 We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.*

We are to use our powerful God-tools for smashing warped philosophies, tearing down barriers erected against the truth of God, fitting every loose thought and emotion and impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ. Our tool is the “Helmet of Salvation”. This should always be on for clearing the ground of every obstructive thought that would keep us from growing closer in and to God.

* Eph. 6:12

*For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places....17. Put on the helmet of Salvation*

When we put on the helmet of salvation, we can avoid sinful thoughts and understand what is good and true. When we forget to do this, we are susceptible to thoughts that are planted in us by the enemy, who seeks to harm our walk with Christ. Stop allowing “any” thoughts to roam around in your head. Take responsibility for keeping your mind clear of evil thoughts, or wrong thinking.

2. Inspect Your Thoughts

* Hebrew 4:12

*For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.*

Are our thoughts Godly or Selfish? Is the way I think the way Christlike, or do I just allow any thought to roam? When we receive Jesus Christ in our lives, it’s not by intellect or with our brain, but by faith, Faith in Who He said He is; the Savior of the World, sent from God the Father. As we grow in Him, we should begin to study and seek more of the answers in the Scriptures; and with our intellect as we find a wealth of solid evidence there. When we do this, we find that what we have believed in, truly is undeniable. It is with our minds that we discover the proof of our faith, in the Word of God and this should begin to alter my thinking.

* II Tim. 2:15 *Study to show thyself approved unto God, a worker that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*

As mentioned last week, the Word of God is of utmost importance to the Christian. Not only does it give us show us the way to Christ, but it also shows us how we should think as Christians. As I said earlier, we are the only creature created that has the ability to, with our mind, reason with our thoughts. We have the know how whether a thought is beneficial or harmful. Good or evil. Pleasing to the Lord or pleasing the devil? The Word of God should be the final say on how we think.

3. Replace Ungodly Thoughts with Godly Thoughts

* Psalm 19:14

*May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.*

* Eph. 3:20

*Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.*

For things to be different you have to begin to think different. Albert Einstein said,

“The problems we face today cannot be solved on the same level of thinking we were at when we created them.”

Stop thinking negative thought and start thinking on the Promises of God!

4. Be Transformed by Godly Thoughts

* Eph. 4:22-24

*22 throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. 23 Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. 24 Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.*

* Romans 12:1-2

*And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. 2 Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect*

The good news is that it isn’t just mind over matter. When you hold on to God’s thoughts His power gets a hold on you and your thoughts, and your thinking starts changing as you become renewed.

Jonathan Edwards a preacher from the 1700’s once said that seeking after God is the main business of the Christian. And how do we seek after God? By pursuing the renewal of our minds. We don’t get the love of God from a hip replacement, a knee replacement, or even a heart transplant. The only way we can be transformed is with a renewed mind

* (A renewed mind results from diligently pursuing the knowledge of God. If we despise doctrine, if we despise knowledge, that probably indicates that we’re still in that fallen condition where we don’t want God in our thinking. True Christians want God to dominate their thinking and to fill their minds with ideas of Himself.

**Closing**

If we want to love God more, we must know Him more deeply. And the more we search the Scriptures, and the more we focus our minds’ attention and allow Him to change the way we think to the more out thoughts will be on who God is, what His promises are to us! And then the more we understand Him in this way, the more our souls break out in flame. We have a greater desire to honor Him. The more we understand God and focus on Him with our minds, the more we love Him with our minds.

To love God with our minds is to hold Him in high esteem, to think about Him with reverence and with adoration. The more we love God with our minds, the more we’ll be driven to worship Him. To pursue God with our minds simply for intellectual enjoyment and without the ultimate purpose of loving and worshiping Him is to miss what it means to love Him with our minds. True knowledge of God always bears fruit in greater love for God and a greater desire to praise Him. The more we know Him, the more glorious He will appear to us. And the more glorious He appears to us, the more inclined we will be to praise Him, to honor Him, to worship Him, and to obey Him.

It’s been said “Let the mind of the Master be the master of your mind. You can’t change the future without changing your thinking. But if you will work with the Lord to control and discipline your thoughts, you will begin to love the Lord with ALL your mind.

To “love the Lord our God with all our mind” is done when our thoughts dwell on Him rather than us and our thoughts. When our thoughts focus on His holiness, and goodness, and love, and mercy, and beauty… Then we reply to His perfection with prayer, praise, perhaps a song, and worship “in spirit and in truth” (John 4:23). When we love Him, it causes us to desire to know Him more, to know Him better, and to discover what blesses Him.

Our mind loves God by yielding our will to His holy will. It is with my mind that I rule my body, and my actions to obey Christ causing me to seek God first for everything!