

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE:	How to Have Mastery Over Your Mind
SERMON REFERENCE:	2 Corinthians 4:3-6
LWF SERMON NUMBER:	#1373

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) We live in a world that has gone wild.
 - i) The problem is in the minds of people.
 - (1) The problem is in the thought life of the people of this world.
- b) God destroyed an entire world because “the imagination of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually.”
 - i) Genesis 6:5
 - ii) God had to eradicate a generation simply because of their thought life.
- c) 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
 - i) In this passage, “the god of this world” refers to Satan.
 - (1) “The god of this world” is the god of this age.
 - ii) This passage deals with the problem of the mind and a blinded mind.
- d) Satan is battling to control the thought life of our teenagers.
 - i) Promiscuity, perversion, and fatalism are being pumped into their heads over and over again.
 - ii) Many teenage suicides are caused by the fatalism and depression that come from listening to the lyrics of certain types of music.
 - iii) The devil is controlling their minds through the media.
- e) The devil is controlling the thought life of so many, but he doesn’t have to.
 - i) There is a way to gain control of your mind.
- f) Today’s message will give us four principles to controlling our thought life.

2) THE SALVATION FACTOR (2 CORINTHIANS 4:4)

- a) You must get saved.
- b) The devil doesn’t want us to know the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - i) 2 Corinthians 4:4
 - (1) The devil wants to pull the veil of darkness over our minds.
 - ii) He doesn’t want God to turn the light on in our souls.
 - (1) He wants to blind our minds.
- c) There is a difference between the mind and the brain.
 - i) The brain is what the mind thinks with.
 - ii) The relationship of mind and brain would be very similar to the relationship of a pianist and a piano.
 - (1) The piano is the brain.
 - (2) The pianist is the mind that uses the brain.
 - (a) Who plays the piano makes a lot of difference as to what comes out of it.
 - iii) The most dangerous thing in the world is a person with a bad mind and a good brain.
 - iv) It is the mind that the Bible speaks of.
 - (1) When someone is saved, they don’t get a new brain.
 - (a) They get a new mind.
- d) 2 Corinthians 4:4
 - i) The devil doesn’t hurt our intelligence; he distorts our minds.

- ii) He blinds our minds because as a man thinketh, so is he.
 - (1) Proverbs 23:7
- e) Proverbs 4:23
 - i) In this verse, the word “heart” does not mean the organ that pumps the blood, but it means the center of your thought life.
 - (1) Ralph Waldo Emerson said that a man is what he thinks about all day long.
 - (a) Whatever you think, that is what you are.
 - (i) Proverbs 23:7
 - ii) It has to be in the mind before it can be in the life.
 - (1) For example, the airplane that flew at Kitty Hawk was in the minds of the Wright brothers before it ever got into the air.
 - (2) It is the mind that controls you.
 - f) The Bible says that we have a mind that is at war with God if we are an unsaved person.
 - i) Romans 8:6-7
 - (1) “The carnal mind” means “the fleshly mind.”
 - ii) We will never make a godly mind out of an ungodly mind just simply by trying to train that ungodly mind.
 - (1) It cannot be done.
 - g) Colossians 1:21
 - i) Salvation gives us a new mind.
 - h) Those who have been saved now have the mind of Christ.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 2:16
 - (1) We literally get a new mind.
 - i) If we would control our thought life, then the carnal mind must be converted.
 - i) If we don’t start there, then we will never go any further.
- 3) THE SINCERITY FACTOR (2 CORINTHIANS 11:2-3)
 - a) 2 Corinthians 11:2-3
 - i) In this passage, the Apostle Paul thinks of himself as a father, the church as the bride of Christ, and Christ as the bridegroom.
 - (1) He was saying, “As a father, I am bringing you, and I am presenting you to Jesus Christ.”
 - ii) The word “chaste” here means “pure.”
 - (1) He wants to present you as a pure virgin to the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - iii) Notice the fear that Paul has and the danger that he sees in verse 3.
 - (1) The word “simplicity” here means “single-minded devotion.”
 - (a) In some places, it may be translated as “the sincerity that is in Christ.”
 - (b) In the King James version of the Bible, it means “single-mindedness,” “a heart-felt devotion.”
 - (i) Like a husband is to love his wife with single-mindedness.

1. There is to be no other girlfriend.
 2. She is to be number one in his life.
- (c) It is a single-minded, sincere devotion to Jesus.
- (2) A divided mind means a perverted mind and then a broken relationship.
- b) We are not to have a divided heart, then a defiled life, and then a destroyed relationship with Jesus.
- i) We are to keep our relationship to Christ sincere.
 - (1) We are to be single-minded.
- c) The carnal mind must be converted, but that converted mind may be corrupted.
- i) Just because someone is saved doesn't mean that they will not have to battle with their thought life.
 - (1) In this passage, Paul was talking to Christians.
 - (a) 2 Corinthians 11:2-3
- d) We must say with a single mind that we are going to give everything to Jesus Christ.
- 4) THE STRONGHOLD FACTOR (2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5)
- a) 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
 - i) There is a war, but it is not a war of the flesh.
 - ii) In this passage, the word "carnal" means "fleshly."
 - (1) The Latin word for "flesh" is the word we get the English word "carnal" from.
 - iii) He is talking about the thought life, the mind.
 - b) The salvation factor tells us that the carnal mind must be converted.
 - c) The sincerity factor warns us that a converted mind may be corrupted.
 - d) The stronghold factor tells us that a corrupted mind must be conquered.
 - e) The devil will seduce a believer.
 - i) He will get into a believer's mind very subtly.
 - ii) He will put into that believer's mind what the Bible calls a "stronghold."
 - (1) 2 Corinthians 10:4
 - (a) "Stronghold" may be translated "fortress."
 - (i) The Greek word means "to make firm."
 - (2) The devil gets firmly entrenched in the hearts and minds of people with certain ideas, thoughts, and obsessions.
 - f) Strongholds are a system of thought that brings a believer into bondage.
 - i) The devil uses that system of thought to establish in your mind imaginations.
 - (1) 2 Corinthians 11:5
 - (a) The King James version calls it "imagination."
 - (b) The word "imagination" is the word we get our word "logistics" from in the Greek.
 - ii) The devil is warring a logistical war against God.

- (1) He seduces a believer.
 - (2) He subtly comes into the mind of a believer.
 - (3) He implants into the mind of that believer a stronghold, a fortress.
 - (4) He gets inside that fortress with logistics.
 - (5) He wars at God logically.
 - (a) With philosophies and thoughts, he wars against the idea of God.
- g) The devil always wants to war at God, and he wants to use our minds as a battlefield to war against Him.
- i) The devil knows that if he can control our minds, then he can control us.
 - (1) Proverbs 23:7
- h) Strongholds for Christians include the following:
- i) Compulsiveness
 - (1) Do you find yourself acting compulsively?
 - (a) You don't know why you do it, you just do it.
 - ii) Obsessions
 - (1) Are you obsessed with certain things that you think about all of the time?
 - iii) Fixations and fears
 - (1) Do you have fears that lurk in the subconsciousness of your mind?
 - (a) 2 Timothy 1:7
 - iv) Bitterness and resentment
 - (1) Down in your heart is a seething cauldron of hate and bitterness.
 - (a) You wish it were not there, but you don't know how to get rid of it.
 - v) Uncontrollable lust
 - (1) Lust and pornography have a hold on some people's lives that they cannot shake.
 - vi) Phobias, criticisms, and distrust
 - (1) It is not just a passing thing that comes through your mind, but there is a fortress.
 - (2) Satan, who has seduced you, has taken control.
 - (a) He has moved in, and he is logistically warring against God with these imaginations.
- i) We can take back the fortress.
- i) 2 Corinthians 10:4
 - ii) The weapons of our warfare are the Word of God, prayer, repentance, the blood of Christ, and the Holy Spirit.
 - iii) The weapons of our warfare are not carnal.
 - (1) They are not:
 - (a) Education
 - (i) We will never control our minds by education.
 - (b) Psychiatry and psychology
 - (i) These have their place, but the weapons of our warfare are not carnal.
 - (c) Positive thinking

- (i) Many Christians are hooked on positive thinking.
 - 1. Many don't know the difference between positive thinking and faith.
 - a. They think that they are the same thing.
 - (ii) Positive thinking will not release someone from the stronghold of Satan.
 - (2) These all have their place, but the weapons of our warfare are not carnal.
 - iv) When we use our spiritual weapons, we can take back the conquered ground that we gave to Satan.
 - (1) We can conquer it ourselves and dispossess Satan.
 - v) The only way that we will do this is with the authority of Jesus Christ and the Word of God.
 - (1) When we get right with God, then we can legally move Satan out.
 - (2) Luke 10:19
- 5) THE SURRENDER FACTOR (2 CORINTHIANS 10:5)
- a) It is not enough that we just take back our minds.
 - i) If that is all we do, then before long, we will be back in the same difficulty.
 - b) 2 Corinthians 10:5
 - i) This is the surrender factor.
 - (1) We cannot be neutral.
 - c) Not only must Satan be dethroned, but Christ must be enthroned in our thought life.
 - i) This is through the renewing of our minds.
 - (1) Romans 12:2
 - ii) We bring the mind back to Jesus Christ.
 - (1) We enthrone Jesus Christ.
 - d) No person can think two things at one time.
 - i) If we are thinking what is right, then we cannot be thinking what is wrong.
 - ii) We can choose our thoughts like we can choose our friends.
 - (1) We can refuse to let things into our mind.
- 6) CONCLUSION
- a) The carnal mind must be converted, but that is not enough.
 - i) You must beware lest the converted mind be corrupted.
 - b) If the converted mind is corrupted, then the corrupted mind can be conquered.
 - c) The conquered mind can be controlled by bringing every thought to Jesus Christ.
 - i) Then, you can say with the Apostle Paul that you have the mind of Christ.
 - d) Proverbs 23:7
 - i) If you think like Christ, then you are going to be like Jesus.

- e) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- f) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16