

CASTING DOWN WICKED IMAGINATIONS 8-4-11

2 Corinthians 10:5, "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;"

Casting down imaginations – no man has an original thought. Thoughts either come from God or the devil. Thoughts from God we are not to cast down but to meditate on because they line up with the Word of God. Jos 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. {have...: or, do wisely }

Pr 4:20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.

21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. {health: Heb. medicine }

3Jo 1:2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. {wish: or, pray }

Ro 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Casting down imaginations – all thoughts from the devil are negative and prideful. We are to cast down the devil's thoughts. Casting down means to demolish. The thoughts are so utterly destroyed, that it is impossible to bring them back to any assemblage. Mr 11:25 And when ye stand praying, forgive (to send away, very much like casting down - demolishing,) if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive – demolish - you your trespasses. Mr 11:26 But if ye do not forgive – demolish those trespasses, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive – demolish - your trespasses. Ps 10:4, "The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts." When Peter rebuked Jesus after Jesus shared about his death and resurrection, Jesus addressed Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan, for your thoughts are not God's thoughts, . . .", Mark 8:33.

And every high thing, etc --every high thing; all the proud and lofty thoughts from the devil to men, which lead them to exalt themselves against the gospel. All the pride of the human heart and of understanding is opposed to the knowledge of God, and all exalts itself into a vain self-confidence. Men entertain vain and unfounded opinions respecting their own excellency, and they feel that they do not need the provisions of the gospel, and are unwilling to submit to God.

And bringing into captivity, etc. The figure here is evidently taken from military conquests. The idea is, that all the strongholds of heathenism, and pride, and sin, would be demolished; and that when this was done, like throwing down the walls of a city, or making a breach, all the plans and purposes of the soul, the reason, the imagination, and all the powers of the mind, would be subdued or led in triumph by the gospel, like the inhabitants of a captured city. Christ was the great Captain in this warfare. In his name the battle was waged, and by his power the victory was won. The captives were made for him, and under his authority; and all were to be subject to his control. Every power of thought in the heathen world; all the systems of philosophy, and all forms of opinion among men; all the purposes of the soul; all the powers of reason, memory, judgment, fancy, in an individual, were all to come under the laws of Christ. All doctrines were to be in accordance with his will; philosophy should no longer control them, but they should be subject to the will of Christ. **All the plans of life should be controlled by the will of Christ, and formed and executed under his control--as captives are led by a conqueror.** All the emotions and feelings of the heart should be controlled by him, and led by him as a captive is led by a victor. The sense is, that it was the aim and purpose of Paul to accomplish this, and that it would certainly be done. The strongholds of philosophy, heathenism, and sin should be demolished, and all the opinions, plans, and purposes of the world should become subject to the all-conquering Redeemer.

Bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; or, lit., taking every thought prisoner. **Compelling your thoughts to serve Christ.**

Php 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Finally, brethren] The object of the apostle is to recommend holiness and righteousness to them in every point of view; and to show that the Gospel of Christ requires all to have the mind that was in Christ, and to walk as he himself also walked. That they were not to attend to one branch of righteousness or virtue only, but to every thing by which they might bring honour to God, good to their fellow creatures, and credit to themselves.

Whatsoever things are true. All that is agreeable to unchangeable and eternal truth.

Whatsoever things are honest. Whatever is grave, decent, and venerable.

Whatsoever things are just. Whatsoever is agreeable to justice and righteousness. All that ye owe to God, to your neighbor, and to yourselves.

Whatsoever things are pure. Whatsoever is chaste. In reference to the state of the mind, and to the acts of the body.

Whatsoever things are lovely. Whatsoever is amiable on its own account and on account of its usefulness to others, whether in your conduct or conversation.

Whatsoever things are of good report. Whatsoever things the public agree to acknowledge as useful and profitable to men; such as charitable institutions of every kind, in which genuine Christians should ever take the lead.

If there be any virtue. If they be calculated to promote the general good of mankind, and are thus praiseworthy;

Think on these things. Esteem them highly, recommend them heartily, and practice them fervently.