

CAPTURING EVERY THOUGHT

1. Text: II Corinthians 10:3-5
2. Moderns often stress how important our thoughts are. William James wrote, "Man can change his attitude by changing what he thinks about." Ancients stressed it too, "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he." (Proverbs 23:7) So we need to control our minds.
3. Paul uses an even stronger word in verse 5. "Bringing into captivity" or capturing. Big Greek word literally says: "spear plus to capture," the mind, thought, purpose, or design. Think of a conqueror or a guard over our thoughts. Paul saw the power of the mind and the need to control it.
4. How do we bring our thoughts into captivity?

I. We Must Be Careful About What Dwells In Our Minds.

1. Often difficult to keep thoughts out. But can control how long they stay.
2. Lot's wife: Woman out of Sodom, but not Sodom out of woman.
3. Childish Ahab in I Kings 21.
4. Joseph: You meant it for evil, but God for good. (Genesis 50:20)
5. Paul's contentment (Philippians 4:11)
6. Psalm 1:2 "In His law he meditates day and night."
7. "Brainwashing" (Titus 3:5); "mental monsters"; wishing and believing; the "unthinkable."

II. We Must Be Careful What Goes Into Our Minds.

8. We can to some extent control what enters our minds.
9. Galatians 6:7 We reap what we sow.
10. Matthew 12:35 Good and evil men bring from their treasure.
11. Mind like a vast computer.
12. The Coca-Cola principle and the fundamentals.
13. Applications: Watch active and passive feeds; the power of television; humor; power of children;
as much spiritual exposure as possible.

III. We Must Be Careful About What Comes Out.

1. What comes out reflects what's inside.
 2. Charles Allen: "The within is ceaselessly becoming the without."
 3. Matthew 7:20 By their fruits you will know them.
 4. Woman during Civil War:
 5. Roosevelt and his wife:
 6. Mind like a memory bank or a jail.

IV. We Must Be Careful About The Mind Being Obedient To Christ.

1. That's the central point.
2. Christ is our Lord, Master, Authority.
3. Do my thoughts reflect His capture of my heart?
4. Danger of hypocrisy.

Conclusion!

