

The Old Paths

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“Think Like God Thinks”

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In Romans 12:1-2, Paul writes, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 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.” In our study, I want us to look closely at the phrase “the renewing of your mind.” The word “renewing” means, “renewal, renovation, complete change for the better” (Thayer’s, p. 38). I like Mr. Vine’s definition of this word: “the adjustment of the moral and spiritual vision and thinking to the mind of God, which is designed to have a transforming effect upon the life” (p. 524). In other words, when we “renew” our minds, we are in fact changing our thinking to make it more in line with God’s! Paul wrote the Romans, encouraging them (and us) to think like God thinks!

How Can I Think Like God Thinks?

To answer this question, let us ask how anyone can think like someone else? In order for two or more to think alike, their thoughts must be revealed! In like manner, if we are to think like God thinks, we must know what He is thinking. Paul writes to the Corinthians about this very sub-

ject and says, “Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual” (I Cor. 2:8-13). Paul, in Romans 12:1-2, was not telling us to do something that we cannot do. God reveals His mind through His Spirit. We need to pay attention!

Where Were God’s Thoughts Revealed?

We know that the Holy Spirit has revealed God’s thoughts, but where? Is God’s will revealed in such a way that is “better felt than told”? Has He hidden it in some obscure place that will take men a lifetime to find? By no means! God’s thoughts are revealed in the Bible. Peter told the brethren, “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (I Peter 4:11). The word “oracles” means, “the utterances.” Every time we read, and

speaking from God’s word, we are reading and speaking the thoughts of God. Isn’t that amazing!! God loved us enough to give us His thoughts, and when we study and read His word (II Tim. 2:15; Eph. 3:4), we can think like God thinks! What other book, man, or group of men could give you that?

Why Were God’s Thoughts Revealed?

Have you ever wondered why God would spend so much time in giving us a book by which to live? Why were His thoughts revealed? Was there a reason that we needed to know who God is? Let us let the Bible answer the question “why.” In John 20:29-31, we read, “Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.” God’s thoughts were written so we might believe. Secondly, God’s thoughts were revealed because man sins, and is in need of salvation, and this volume reveals how to be saved (Rom. 3:23; Rev. 3:20; Mk. 16:16).

How Were His Thoughts Revealed?

We have discussed that the Holy Spirit revealed God’s thoughts, but how did He do it? The method used is revealed for us in the Bible as well. “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds” (Heb. 1:1-2). Peter says some-

thing similar to that in II Peter 1:20-21. He wrote, *"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."* These passages reveal that God spoke to the fathers for a while. These men were "moved" (inspired) by the Holy Ghost to say the things they did (I Cor. 2). Jesus was also sent to reveal God's thoughts to man (Jn. 12:49-50). After the thoughts of God were revealed to man, they were then written down for future generations to profit and be saved (Ex. 34:27; Jn. 20:30-31; Eph. 3:3-5; etc.).

What Are God's Thoughts Concerning Religion And Religious Error?

Some folks are convinced that there is no such thing as religious error, and that we all just choose the religion that we like best. Is this what God thinks? When one decides that he is going to think like God thinks, he will stand opposed to religious error. God has stated a marked difference between truth and error, and it is clear that there is such a thing as worshipping *"in spirit and in truth"* and worshipping *"in vain"* (Jn. 4:24; Matt. 15:9). Since this is the case, when one stands opposed to religious error, he is thinking as God thinks, and Satan has lost a soldier. When we think like God thinks, we will not be "tolerant" of error that people espouse. We would rather teach them the truth and have them be upset with us for a while, than to have a friend that goes to Hell because of our inaction (II Tim. 2:2). Thinking like God thinks will make us realize that we need to be doing all that God has said. We cannot "pick

and choose" the commands we like and expect to go to Heaven (Ecc. 12:13-14; II Cor. 5:10; Rev. 22:14).

Conclusion

Years before Christ came to earth, Isaiah wrote, *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts"* (Isa. 55:8-9). Seeing that God's thoughts and man's thoughts are not the same, we must transform our thoughts to match God's. I do not try to make God in my image; I change my life to reflect God.

Think again about Romans 12:1-2. Friend, have you renewed your mind? Have you decided you want to think like God thinks? If you do not think like God, your only other choice is to think like the world. You do not want to do that!! (Matt. 16:26)

THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF THIS COUNTRY KNEW GOD

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)

"He who shall introduce into public affairs the principles of

primitive Christianity will change the face of the world."

"God governs in the affairs of men; and if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, neither can a kingdom rise without his aid." (See: Daniel 4:32, 5:21; Matt. 10:29, JJ)

"If your riches are yours, why don't you take them with you to the other world?" (See: Matt. 6:19-21, JJ)

George Washington (1732-1799)

"Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation, for it is better to be alone than in bad company." (See: I Cor. 15:33, JJ)

"It is impossible to govern the world without God and the Bible."

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)

"Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just." (See: Ecc. 12:13-14; Rom. 2:7-11, JJ)

... OUR COUNTRY'S LEADERS NEED TO KNOW HIM TODAY!

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Ps. 33:12).

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