

From: NeillUher2@yahoo.com
Date: January 20, 2013
Subject: Casting Down Imaginations - 2 Cor. 10:5

Page 1 of 8

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

The Corinthian church was in danger of being lulled to sleep. Some false teachers were placing human wisdom and reason, above "the knowledge of God," and in doing so, the believers were being tempted to cease striving against sin. The beginning of this chapter the Apostle Paul begins by begging these Corinthian believers to recognize their error, and to stand firm in the truth of the Gospel. "The Gospel," Paul says, "is our weapon for"

"Casting down imaginations,..."

The Greek word translated "casting down" is "Kathaireo" and is the opposite to "building." So it is translated "pull down" in Luke 12:18

"And he said [i.e. a greedy man in Christ's parable],

"This will I do: I will pull down ["Kathaireo"] my barns, and build [note the opposite] greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and goods."

This greedy man's barn wasn't big enough to store all of his riches, so he had to pull it down - or destroy it - to build another that is bigger.

As the Apostles preached the Gospel at Ephesus, some were worried that the temple that had been erected to honour the false goddess Diana would be destroyed. We read this in Acts 19:27 where the people complained,

"So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at naught; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth."

The word translated here "destroyed" is the same Greek word, "Kathaireo." These Ephesian

idolaters were afraid their temple would be physically destroyed, such is the power of the Gospel, to "pull down" or "destroy" - not physical buildings and other edifices - but, "Casting down imaginations."

When God sent His prophet Ezekiel to warn of God's judgment upon His idolatrous people, not only did they build all kinds of shrines and idols physically, but within they had "set up their idols in their heart" (Ezek. 14:3). Before a temple is ever built physically, it is built within; in the heart, is the "imaginations."

The Greek word translated "imaginations" in 2 Corinthians 10:5 is the word "logismos" and is used in only one other place in the New Testament. Speaking of the Gentiles who are unfamiliar with the written law of God;

"Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts ["logismos"] the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;" Romans 2:15

"Thoughts" is a suitable translation for "logismos," though "imaginations" helps to clarify the context in 2 Cor. 10:5 better. It can also be translated, "reasonings" (see margin); whatever the case, these "thoughts," these "reasonings," these "imaginations" are proud corruptions against the infinite wisdom of God.

"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, ..."

After our fall in Adam, all of our spiritual faculties have been corrupted; and all of our life long until salvation, we live and thrive in sin.

"And God saw the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." Genesis 6:5

Before salvation sin is our way of life; in fact, we don't even consider it sin, it's not that we don't know better, it's just that we don't care. It's not offensive to us, ~~we~~ actually we like it, we

do not oppose sin unless it is for our benefit. It takes the Holy Spirit of God to renew our hearts and minds, and now, we oppose sin - not for ourselves; but for Christ, who died for our sins.

"Knowing this, that our old man [i.e. our old sinful self] is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin... likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof."

Romans 6:6, 11-12

Before salvation we were dead in sin (Eph. 2:1). Now - after salvation - we should be dead to sin. We were dead in sin because there was no true desire to not sin; now we ^{should be} ~~are~~ dead to sin because we ^{should} truly desire to please God (Col. 1:10). No matter how you decorate a cake, or how much frosting you cover it with, even if you cover it with nuts and berries and everything delicious; if a man is dead, he has absolutely no desire for it. He would

be dead to that cake, so ought we, beloved,
be dead to sin.

Remember, the battle begins within; if you
lose the war within, you will certainly lose the
battles without.

"and bringing into captivity every thought
to the obedience of Christ;" 2 Cor. 10:5

What are you doing, dearly beloved? Are
you bringing those proud rebellious "imagination" ... into
captivity ... to the obedience of Christ"? Do you
have a few stragglers wandering around in your
mind? Maybe thoughts of pretty women? LUST! Maybe
thoughts of getting something you know you don't really
need? COVETOUSNESS! Maybe someone has done some-
thing that offends you? ANGER! Well what are you
waiting for?! Bind them captive, stop letting sinful
thoughts roam around your mind unchecked! Don't you
know you have the Holy Spirit within you?

"And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God,
whereby ye are sealed unto the Day of
Redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and

"anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you." Ephesians 4:31-32

The strongest weapon given to us is the Gospel is right here beloved, "even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you." How can you cherish lustful thoughts if God had to send His Son to die for those sinful thoughts? How can you cherish covetous thoughts if God had to send His Son to die for those sinful thoughts? O how can we cherish any sinful thoughts if God had to send His Son to die for those sinful thoughts?! Philosophy won't do it, reasonings can't do it, O what ~~could~~ melt our heart to release our grips upon sin?

Go back to the cross dear soul! Remember Jesus, the Son of the living God, He was humiliated, spit upon, slapped, whipped... CRUCIFIED! Such was the heart of the Apostle Paul inflamed with love when he wrote, "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." (1 Cor. 2:2). Take my lust and give me Jesus! Take my discontent and give me Jesus!

Like the old hymn says, "Take my life and let it be, wholly consecrated, Lord, to Thee." Dearly beloved, listen to me, when you find a sinful thought frolicking around in your mind, take it captive, right away! How? you ask. By faith, beloved, by faith you bring it captive, by faith you imprison it, by faith you mortify it - not by faith in the thought, but by faith - in His blood.

"Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God has set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood..." Romans 3:24-25

The greatest wars are fought in the mind, and our greatest weapon is the Gospel of Jesus Christ; either we take captive, or we are taken captive, by every thought.

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

Your servant for Jesus sake,

Rev. D. W. Allen