

SERIES GRAPHIC w/email

This Weekend:

Navigating toward a decision being made or a direction being taken.

We are going to have to think.

(We already are thinking.)

Big Question:

Am I **thinking right** about *this*?

{all together}

3 Challenges:

- Stinkin' thinking
- Waiting on an impression/feeling from God/somewhere
- Limited Christianity = "List" Christianity

Romans 12:1-3a

Therefore, brothers and sisters, **in view of the mercies of God**, I urge you to **present your bodies as a living sacrifice**, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. ² Do **not be conformed** to this age, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may **discern** what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

³ For by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you **not to think** of himself more highly than he should think ...

{put the image and the bold "4 puzzle ..." on the same slide

4 PUZZLE PIECES:

<https://static.vecteezy.com/system/resources/previews/000/432/059/original/jigsaw-vector.jpg>

1) **UPWARD LOOK: GETTING/KEEPING THE GOSPEL IN VIEW**

"in view of the mercies of God ..."

{description/definition on one side; image on the other; all together}

Anchor Piece:

the piece that lets you connect a large center area to one of the edges; when you find it, then you know you're really on your way.

<https://www.rd.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/jigsaw-puzzle.jpg>

CYCLE OF WORKS

No mind is **neutral**.

→ Our minds have a posture, a bent and an inclination.

[Romans 12:3a]

→ Our minds are often used to exalt, justify, and defend ourselves.

Romans 5:1-2

Therefore, since we have been **justified** by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²We have also obtained access through Him by faith into this **grace in which we stand**, and we **boast** in the hope of the glory of God.

CYCLE OF GRACE

Why am I thinking about something (*doing, planning, fearing/worrying*) IF ...

God has already DONE it in Christ by grace and it's already mine by faith?

{2 slides is fine; keep the same header – “The Gospel”}

The Gospel:

- Shape the mind to serve the truth ... even when the truth is self-incriminating
- Frees me from the need to defend or prove or exalt myself since I already have an advocate & champion that can't be improved upon.

Big Question:

Am I **thinking right** about *this*?

Romans 12:1

Therefore, brothers and sisters, **in view of the mercies of God**, I urge you to **present your bodies as a living sacrifice**, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.

{come up 1 at a time}

Present your bodies ... living sacrifice:

- Body = area of our control (our realm/kingdom)
- Faith is lived out = expressed, displayed
- OT burnt offering (x2 day)
 - Entirely consumed
 - Continually offered

2) CONTINUALLY **AVAILABLE & ABANDONED** (*“living sacrifice”*)

{one slide}

How do I look?

vs

Have I laid myself down?

{all one slide}

Ways We Get off the Altar:

a) **Back to Cycle of Works**

b) **Walk back commitments**

→ **Through our feelings, desires or impulses**

“True” = reasonable vs. feelings

→ **Rational & intelligent response**

The “heart” (our CEO center) can use the mind to justify what it wants.

Proverbs 22:13 (NLT)

The **lazy** person claims, “There’s a **lion** out there! If I go outside, I **might** be killed!”

DENTAL FLOSS image

<https://th.bing.com/th/id/OIP.9gu91KJyfrGcOq-KtW0eywAAAA?rs=1&pid=ImgDetMain>

Feelings to deny or suppress truth.

Truth to serve feeling.

Do NOT live in your **thoughts what you should not live **out in your life.****

Romans 12:2

²Do **not be conformed** to this age, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may **discern** what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

3) (Non-conformity) → KEEP **THE END IN MIND = **TRANSFORMED** person**

{one slide; together or 3 individual slides ... keep clear formatting}

God does not want simple external compliance to a list.

God does not tell us to stop thinking and listen for messages.

****God wants us to be deeply, deeply different from the world.**

**Am I thinking like a NEW person / the person I am becoming in Christ OR
am I becoming / being like the world?**

“... be transformed by the renewing of your mind so that you may discern ...”

- Go on being ... (=continuous)
 - A command

Transformed → *PASSIVE* voice

{bullet points come up one a time}

v.2 = *Allow something to happen to us BY GOD through an instrument in His hand.*

- Area of Concentration: Mind (~thinking)
- Instrument: Word of God (Gospel; Bible)

Our sinful SELF ...

... Stimulated & Squeezed by the WORLD

... Landing spot for SATAN.

What is the **SOURCE** of this thought

What is **SHAPING** my thinking?

→ The mind will inevitably YIELD → To what/whom?

{a and b come up one at a time}

4) Mind **Renewal**: **Yielded** to God & His Word

- a) Origins: in, out, or up?
- b) Objectivity: Biblical objectivity

Enthrallment with God

Enthronement of God

Intake of His Word

God's will for your life will never come before God's will for your salvation!

- Trust Him eternally as Savior
- Follow Him *daily* as Lord/King