

DISCUSSION IDEAS
RENEWING OUR MINDS

Colossians 3:1-17

August 14th, 2016

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♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: WHO CONTROLS OUR THOUGHTS AND IDEAS?**

Who does Colossians 3:2 assume is in control of our minds?

Are we really responsible for what we think about?

What is the central command in this verse?

Note that the phrase "Set your mind on...." can just as well be translated "Keep on thinking about....".¹

Robertson makes the point that "Paul does not mean that we should never think the things upon the earth, but that these should not be our aim, our goal, our master." ²

If we are commanded to do something,

what does that say about our control over that action?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE IDEAS WE DWELL ON?**

Think about any topic. How do the ideas I have accepted as true control my attitudes?

What if those ideas are wrong?

Think about Eve in Genesis 3:4-5. Shouldn't she want to be like God?

After all, God made me, so how great would it be to be like my Creator?

BUT, according to Gen. 1:27, Who was she already like?

If I buy into the lies that are all around me, how will that affect my walk with God?

How will that affect my trust in God's Word?

Discuss Ephesians 6:12-14. Is this just an academic idea? How can I apply what is said here to real life?

How does Col. 3:2 apply to this?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: HOW CAN I OFFSET A WRONG IDEA THAT IS DEEPLY EMBEDDED IN MY MIND?**

Look at Romans 12:2-4 and Ephesians 4:20-24.

What do I need in order to transform my mind?

How do I counter false ideas with true ones?

Look at what Jesus said in John 17:16-17. Compare this to Psalm 119:160.

¹ Robertson, A. T. (1933). *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Col 3:2). Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.

² Robertson, A. T. (1933). *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Col 3:2). Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.

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In my computer I can save a new and revised document over the original one. I now have a new version.

How does that work with my mind?

If I read and believe a truth that corrects a wrong idea of mine – my old idea is automatically changed, right? **WRONG!!**

Then how do I embed a corrected idea in my mind?

What do I have to do? How often?

♦ **FOR MEDITATION: AT HOME THIS WEEK:**

Read what Moses told the people to do in Deuteronomy 6:6-9.

How much do plaques and posters in our houses influence our families?

Look at Joshua 1:7-9. God Himself is speaking to Joshua! What is His central command?

How can you follow the advice in v. 8?

Is reading a passage one time all I that need to do?

For a view of how important it is that we meditate on God's Word, take a look at these passages:

Psalm 1:2

Psalm 19:14

Psalm 49:3

Psalm 77:6 and 12

Psalm 119:15,23,48,78,97,148

Psalm 142:5

Psalm 145:5

If you want to find more, just open any decent concordance and look up the verses about "meditation".

▶ **IF I CHANGE THE INSIDE, THE OUTSIDE WILL FOLLOW.**

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♦ **FOR PRAYER:**

Continue to uphold the Shelter Valley believers, and the GCC team that serves there.

Continue to pray for the Pearsons as they continue to find various ways to serve Jesus.

Let's continue to pray for the Lord's love and power to be seen in Baranganon Island.

Pray for encouragement for Benders and Ingvoidstads. Ask God for protection from injuries and from sickness.

Thank God for the Helicopter that is now available.

Praise God for all the guys who went to the island and put a concrete floor in the meeting place!

Pray for the men who are growing in Christ and taking on greater responsibilities on Baranganon Island.

Thank God and uphold in prayer the "TFG" (Time For God) group of children and young folks who meet every day!

Pray with the strong, self-motivated women's group as they study God's Word and grow to be mature believers.