

The 10th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, August 17, 2025
“Living the Great Commandment ~ With All Our Mind”
Philippians 4:4-9

“The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these. (Mark 29-31)

Despite what some people think about Christianity, God doesn’t want us to check our _____ at the door. As human beings, God has blessed us with a _____. He’s given us mental faculties, and created us to be intellectual beings, capable of _____ thought, critical thinking, reasoning, and intellectual _____.

He also gave us a _____ to guide us in making choices that are morally right, and to help us live our lives in a way that _____ Him.

We’re called to use our intellectual abilities to discern God’s _____ around us, to _____ Him, and to deepen our faith and understanding.

4 THINGS ABOUT OUR MIND

- **God knows our _____.**

“You know my thoughts before I think them.” (Psalm 139:2)

Nothing that we think is _____ from God. Understanding that God knows our thoughts frees us up to bring our thoughts to Him, especially the ones we might try to hide from Him.

- **God knows our _____.**

“The Lord is fully aware of how limited and futile the thoughts of mankind are.” (Psalm 84:11)

We’re not God, we’re not _____, or all-knowing. Our minds are _____ in their ability to reason and understand, and no matter how hard we try, we can’t know and understand everything.

“The Lord says, ‘My thoughts are not like your thoughts. Your ways are not like my ways.’” (Isaiah 55:8)

- **Our minds are _____ just like the rest of us.**

They need to be _____, or transformed. Our minds are capable of great things. Our mind is often the place of _____, where a war is waged between faith and fear, belief and unbelief, love and hate, good and evil.

“The mind of sinful man is death. But the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.” (Romans 3:6)

The only way we can experience this life and peace, is to _____ our mind to God, _____ our thoughts to Him, and allowing Him to change and transform it.

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1)

- **We are responsible for our own _____.**

There’s a lot of thoughts that we can focus on in our minds, and it’s our _____—we’re _____ for the kinds of things that we entertain in our mind. It’s also important to remember that we’re not our thoughts, and we shouldn’t _____ with them.

“We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” (2 Corinthians 10:5)

3 PRINCIPLES FOR LOVING GOD WITH ALL OUR MIND

- #1. Loving God with all our mind means _____ Him.**

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.” (Psalm 111:10)

Fear = *yira* =

Our God is the Holy One, the Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, and to fear Him is to _____ Him, to have a deep _____ and reverence for His holiness, goodness, and for the things of His kingdom. The result of living one’s life in the fear of the Lord is the development of a greater _____ for the things that are **not** of God.

_____ is one of the biggest barriers to loving God because it’s always

rooted in our decision to go our _____. Not only does sin separate us from God and other people, it also takes the _____ off God and puts it on us. When this happens, we no longer live for Him, but for _____.

How much do you fear God?

How do you live this fear out in your everyday life?

#2. Loving God with all our mind means _____ on Him.

“So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” (Colossians 3:2)

if we want to love God with all our mind, we have to set our minds on Him, on things _____, and not on the things of earth.

Although we can't stop our mind from fixing on something, we can have some _____ over what it fixes on. Paul encourages us in this passage to make the right choice—to focus our mind on the things of God, or as the NLT put it, “the _____ of heaven.”

Because the things of heaven are a lot more _____ than the things of earth, and always lead to a good a place, bringing a sense of joy, peace, and _____, no matter what might be happening around us.

At the beginning of each day...Think about God, His character and _____, His Word, His promises, and the blessings He's given you; think about your life and problems in light of _____. Starting our day this way not only gives us a better _____ on life, but it focuses our minds, and positions us to better love God.

“You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!” (Isaiah 26:3)

“fix your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.” (Hebrews 12:1)

Where are your eyes fixed? What is your mind focussed on?

#3. Loving God with all our mind means _____ it with good things.

“Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there

is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” (Philippians 4:8)

Our minds are like sponges, they can _____ tonnes of material each day. The question is what are they absorbing, what am I filling it with?

3 OPTIONS FOR FILLING OUR MIND

• **We can fill our minds with _____:**

We're so _____ and over-tired by the busyness of life, that sometimes the easiest thing to do is to fill our mind with mental junk food—it's easy, entertaining, _____ and it makes us feel good, at least in the moment. However, at the end of the day, it's harmful to our _____ health and well-being

• **We can fill our minds with _____:**

Addictive, _____ thoughts that we constantly think about and fixate on. Negative thought patterns like these are like a broken record that play over and over in our minds, and the longer it plays, the more _____ is done.

• **We can fill our minds with _____:**

A balanced diet that consists of things that _____ us and build us up, that bring peace, joy and hope, that take the focus off us and this world and put it on God and His Kingdom. There's only one place we can find all of these at once, and that's _____.

Renewing our minds requires _____, and faith is acting on the Word of God, _____ it in order to change the way we think about our life, work, relationships—everything. The Word allows us to know God and approach our lives in a way that pleases Him, bringing our will into agreement and _____ with His will.

What are you filling your mind with?

How are you practically living this part of the Great Commandment out in your everyday life?

Do you love God with all your mind?

Which one of these 3 principles might you need to work on?