

Taking Every Thought Captive

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Introduction: Thousands of thoughts each day? How do we control what controls us? This is the battle we face.

Paul's context: defense of ministry, also our warfare against negativity

You are not a helpless victim to words, thoughts, speculations, fiery missiles, human reasoning, vain imaginings

I. We Are What We Dwell On

A. Our thoughts define our attitudes and actions

Thousands of thoughts each day, some good some bad

Proverbs 23:7 As man thinks in heart, so is he

B. Our battle is spiritual, not physical

In OT: Philistines, Midianites (1 Sam. 17:45-47)

In NT: it is in the heart: Gal. 5:17

Those who ignore battle lose, 1 Pet. 2:11, 5:8

II. The Battle Field is Our Mind and Thoughts

"We have met the enemy and he is us" Pogo, old cartoon

Illus. First battle of Manassas many spectators with picnics

A. We are in a state of war (of spirit, not flesh)

Where is your heart? Love? Where does mind dwell?

This is the battle of Christianity, 1 Pet. 4:2, 1 Cor. 9:27

B. God gives us the power to pull down strongholds

Only time word used, means fortress

Sin hardens in life, hard to remove, James 1:13-14, 1 John 1:8

Keeps us from doing what is right: Obedience, moral living

III. How To Overcome: The Battle for Truth

A. The world fights differently

instead of belt of truth: manipulation

breastplate of righteousness, image of success

shoes of gospel, smooth words

shield of faith, perception of power

helmet of salvation, lording with authority

Sword of Spirit, human schemes and programs

B. We fight with the word of God

Example of Jesus, Matthew 4: Each temptation, use Scripture (Mt. 4:4)

Using Scripture, Sword of Spirit, Eph. 6

lust, Mt. 5:28-29 anger, Jms 1:19-20

self worth, Jn 3:16-17 worry, Phil. 4:6-7

Philip. 4:8 What things are noble, think on these things...