



Berean Christian Fellowship

DEVOTIONAL 66.0

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Including Christ in Your Everything

“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5 KJV).

It isn't always easy for us to include Jesus in our thought-lives, is it? Sacrifices of time and energy are demanded by everyone around us, but what about Christ? Paul tells us to *“present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect”* (Romans 12:1b-2).

Through the sanctifying, renewing of our minds, the Holy Spirit convicts us of thoughts and intents we must sacrifice to Christ. Many thoughts we have, however, can seem harmless and completely unrelated to Jesus, but they push Him out of our minds and distract us (things like daily “to-do” lists and spreadsheets detailing income and expenditures), and the eyes of the Church are secularized. Sometimes even things “Biblical” can distract us from a pure devotion to Christ (perhaps a certain Biblical teaching we feel needs to “get out there”). Each of us has different challenges submitting our thoughts to Christ, but we are to give Him “EVERY thought.” How often should we be *“fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God”* (Hebrews 12:2)? Always. “Fixing” doesn't mean “glancing,” it means “unwavering” — everything concerns God.

Some of us are immersed in countless

“worldly” things we need to do daily, and our challenge may be to even get a glimpse of Jesus when we are spending long hours at our studies, interacting with customers, managing our children's activities, or performing the daily work the world requires of us.

For others who spend time dwelling on God's Word and working things out, we may look in His direction, but is our vision in focus? Are our eyes fixed on Him? Do we lay down thoughts and ideas that move us out of a pure devotion to Christ and His Word? No matter our challenge, in everything we must endeavor to keep our focus on Christ and practice bringing Him our every thought—daily, hourly, and hopefully by the minute. How?

A dear, loved one is always in the presence of our thoughts—always before our waking eyes, even as we are busy about our work. Just so, Paul would remind us, as he told the Corinthians, that he has *“betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin”* (2 Corinthians 11:2b). Here, Paul uses the analogy of marriage to help us understand the significance of our relationship with Jesus. Do we love Him? Maybe? Yes? No marriage is healthy where the spouses won't give themselves to each other in purity. Jesus has given His all to us, is it so much that we give Him what He desires?

When we hold things back from Him because they “don't have anything to do with Him,” we deceive ourselves—all things belong to Him! If we include His Word in our daily moments, our sight will be purified by the Holy Spirit: *“To the pure, all things are pure [and we come to see things from Eternity] but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled”* (Titus 1:15). May we labor to give Christ our “everything” because we love Him. He desires it of us. Amen.

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