

God in All My Thoughts

Text: Psalm 10:4: "The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts."

I love expository preaching that takes a passage of Scripture and exhausts the contents of its meaning, application and the joy of finding Jesus in the context. In John 5:39, Jesus said: "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me." In my study of homiletics, I learned there are three types of preaching: expository, textual and topical. In the practical study of preaching, one will find out that all three of these methods overlap and especially to the layman, it becomes like saying the same word with different pronunciations. The main requirement of the preacher is to follow the command in II Timothy 4:2: "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

A sermon thought came to mind in the form of a textual sermon that I cannot escape. I want to bring to your attention one of the most negative phrases in Scripture, i.e., "...God is not in all his thoughts." It is a most tragic way of life to live without having God in all your thoughts. When you awaken, you have no prayer that says, "Good morning, Lord!" At mealtime you have no prayer of grace to thank God for His provision and the ability to digest the food, thus receiving nutrients to physically maintain health. You have no interaction with the family of God, the sweet communion of the saints, the Church for whom Christ shed His very blood (Acts 20:28). I cannot imagine trying to have a family life without the Lord as the Participant of every conversation, the Guest at every meal and the Guide and Protector of our home. I think of the lovely prayer, "Bless this house, oh Lord, we pray. Keep us safe by night and day." I cannot contemplate the child's prayer without the thought of God "Now I lay me down to sleep; I pray Thee Lord my soul to keep." How comforting to know the reality of Psalm 121:4: "Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep."

This morning I want to take that same sad phrase and leave out one word in order to define the most spiritually motivating, emotionally liberated and happiest people on this planet. That one word is the three-letter word, "not." The latter part of Psalm 10:4 would then read, "God is in all his thoughts!" All our thoughts! Think of it! Job said in Job 7:17, 18: "What is man, that thou shouldest magnify him? and that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him? And that thou shouldest visit him every morning, and try him every moment? ." God has set His heart upon us, is present, willing and able to talk with us every morning and be with us every moment of every day! We are in all of God's thoughts, every day and all day long. Psalm 8:4: "What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" Psalm 144:3: "Lord, what is man, that thou takest knowledge of him! or the son of man, that thou makest account of him!" When we consider the mighty expanse of this universe, how big it is and then how small this inhabited earth is and even smaller yet, is the one little individual person out of eight billion people and yet God has us in His majestic thoughts! Oh! how we should, in turn, have God in ALL our thoughts.

I.WHEN GOD IS NOT IN ALL OUR THOUGHTS, THE LORD IS GRIEVED.

We are facing such an erosion of morality and open display of profane, depraved lifestyles in our culture, that it appears we are “slouching toward Gomorrah” as spoken of by Robert H. Bork, in his book by the same name. Because the lack of holiness from the pulpit to the pew is so prevalent in our country and community, sin is no longer exceeding sinful as spoken of in Romans 7:13. We see what happens when God is not in all the thoughts of an unconverted man’s mind. Genesis 6:5: “And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” When God does not preoccupy our thoughts, there is no limit to man’s depravity. Genesis 6:6b reveals how man’s runaway thoughts affected the LORD: “...and it grieved Him at his heart.” The result was the flood and loss of every life on the earth except for Noah and his family. Why did Noah escape? Let’s talk about that in the next point.

II. GOD IS IN ALL THE THOUGHTS OF A PERSON WHO WALKS WITH THE LORD.

Genesis 6:8, 9: “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.” Noah separated himself from his contemporaries and walked with God. Enoch, the great grandfather of Noah was the first one of whom the Scriptures spoke of walking with God. Genesis 5:22a: “And Enoch walked with God...”; Genesis 5:24: “And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.” Walking with God depicts a man who has God in all his thoughts. Let’s look at the Scripture to explain what it means to walk with God, thus having God in all our thoughts. See Deuteronomy 6:3-9. A worthy prayer to pray to help us walk with the LORD is found in Psalm 19:14: “Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.”

III. GOD IS IN ALL THE THOUGHTS OF A PERSON WHO HAS THE MIND OF CHRIST.

Philippians 2:5: “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.” How is this done?

A. Eliminate the negative.

Ephesians 4:31: “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice.”

The story is told of a man who awakened for a midnight snack and enjoyed some Limburger cheese placed liberally on his rye toast. Afterwards, he went back to bed. Due to his lack of sleep, he overslept and upon waking, he rushed to work. He complained all day of the wretched smell he was experiencing. His car smelled, his office smelled and he even lost his appetite for lunch because the cafeteria smelled. Then he hurt his wife’s feelings when he complained of the smell in her kitchen as she prepared supper. He did not notice until he approached the mirror to shave that the stench was being carried around by himself, due to the Limburger cheese that had dried on his mustache from the night before. You have already made the application, haven’t you? As we are so very tempted to deal first with the pollution in our culture, let us examine ourselves and see if we are part of the solution or part of the problem.

B. Accentuate the positive.

Philippians 4:8: “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely,

whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Proverbs 23:7a: "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he..."

IV. GOD IS IN ALL THE THOUGHTS OF A PERSON WHO PRAYS WITHOUT CEASING.

I Thessalonians 5:17: "Pray without ceasing." Luke 18:1: "And He spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint." Hebrews 12:3: "For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."

I Met God in the Morning

By: Ralph Spaulding Cushman

I met God in the morning,
When my day was at its best
And His presence came like sunrise,
Like a glory in my breast.
All day long the Presence lingered;
All day long He stayed with me;
And we sailed in perfect calmness
O'er a very troubled sea.
Other ships were blown and battered,
Other ships were sore distressed,
But the winds that seemed to drive them
Brought to us a peace and rest.
Then I thought of other mornings,
With a keen remorse of mind.
When I too had loosed the moorings
With the Presence left behind.
So, I think I know the secret,
Learned from many a troubled way;
You must seek Him in the morning
If you want Him through the day.

-Pastor Pope-