

A Good Mind

Matt. 22:37

Introduction:

- A. Christianity requires a good mind—"with all your mind".
 - 1. Someone said that "Christianity is a thinking man's religion".
 - 2. So much that a Christian is to do requires mental activity.
 - 3. Does not require an "intellectual", but does require use of what intelligence God gives us.
 - 4. A good mind means more than just being capable of reasoning and understanding.
- B. New Testament gives us some characteristics a truly good mind needed by Christians:

Discussion:

- I. A Good Mind Is A Pure Mind. (2 Pet. 3:1-2).**
 - A. Purified by obeying the truth. (1 Pet. 1:22).
 - B. Kept pure by meditating on good things. (Phil. 4:8).
- II. A Good Mind Is A Spiritual Mind. (Rom. 8:6)**
 - A. Produces fruit of Spirit rather than works of flesh. (Gal. 5:19-23).
 - B. More impressed with spiritual credentials of teachers than with fleshly. (cf. 1 Cor. 3:1-4).
 - C. More concerned with inward adorning than outward. (1 Pet. 3:3,4).
 - D. Heaven centered rather than earth centered. (cf. Col. 3:2).
- III. A Good Mind Is A Humble Mind. (Col. 3:12).**
 - A. Opposite of conceit and selfishness. (Phil. 2:3,4).
 - B. Obedient without complaining. (Phil. 2:8, 2:12-14)
- IV. A Good Mind Is A Ready Mind. (Act 17:11).**
 - A. Eager (ready and willing) to learn the truth. (Acts 17:11)
 - B. Eager (ready and willing) to do the truth. (2 Cor. 8:12; 1 Pet. 5:2—Note: compare versions)
- V. A Good Mind Is A Sober Mind. (Tit. 2:6).**
 - A. Two words for "sober".
 - 1. "SOPHRONEO" = To be of sound mind Thinking rationally. (cf. Rom. 12:3; 2 Cor. 5:13).
 - 2. "NEPHO" or "NEPHALIOS" (cf. 1 Thess. 5:6,8; 2 Tim. 4:5; 1 Pet. 1:13; 4:7; 5:8)
 - a. "To be free from influence of intoxicants" — Vine.
 - b. "To abstain from wine" — Donnegan.
 - c. "Sober, temperate, especially in respect to wine." — Robinson
 - d. "Sober, temperate, abstaining from wine" — Thayer.
 - B. Cannot have a sober mind and mess his mind up with alcohol and other drugs.
 - 1. Bible use of wine and modern drinking not a good comparison.
 - a. Scholarship divided on meaning of word "wine" (cf. Isa. 16:10; 65:8).
 - b. Strong drink (from grain) of that day probably weaker than most modern drinks.
 - c. Strong evidence that naturally fermented wines were watered down for drinking. (Statements from Westminster Dictionary of Bible, McGarvey, B.W. Johnson, Barnes, from Needham's tract pp. 14,15).
 - 2. So-called Biblical justification for moderate drinking falls short.
 - a. Timothy's "little wine" — only authorizes medical usage.
 - b. "Not given to wine" — "Not given to filthy lucre" (Tit. 1:7)
 - c. "not..much wine" — "Not over much wicked" (Ecc. 7:17).
 - C. Reasons why a Christian should not drink at all.
 - 1. Modern drinks cannot be compared to light wines of Palestine.
 - 2. Potential for evil influence far greater than Biblical times more common use of stronger drinks. (cf. Rom. 14:21).
 - 3. Greater danger of addiction to modern beverages than light wines of Biblical times.
 - 4. Difficulty in knowing when one ceases to be completely sober and becomes a little drunk?
 - 5. Legal drunkenness is .5% blood alcohol: For 170 lb. man—3 (12 oz.) bottles of beer or 3 (4oz) glasses of TABLE wine or 1½ 5 oz. glasses of fortified wine.

Conclusion:

- A. We need a good mind to serve the Lord at his best.
- B. We should do nothing that would weakness our purity, spirituality, humility, readiness and sobriety of mind.