

## What's On Your Mind?

One night a wife found her husband standing over their baby's crib. Silently she watched him, as he stood looking down at the sleeping infant, she saw on his face a mixture of emotions: disbelief, doubt, delight, amazement, enchantment, and skepticism. Touched by this unusual display and the deep emotions it aroused, with eyes glistening she slipped her arm around her husband. "A penny for your thoughts," she said.

"It's amazing!" he replied. "I just can't see how anybody can make a crib like that for only \$69.95."

Sometimes our thoughts are not as grand as they might be. We partake of the Lord's Supper and ought to have our thoughts centered on the sacrifice of our Savior. Instead, we think about what we're going to eat for dinner. We see a spectacular sunset and ought to be led to reflect on the glory and grandeur of God the Creator. Instead, we wonder who's winning the ball game.

As difficult as it is to keep our lives and our tongues under control, it seems so much more difficult to bring our "every thought into captivity" (2Cor. 10:5). If we're not careful, our thoughts tend to wander into mundane and even forbidden territory. Allow these words of Paul to call us back: "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy -- meditate on these things" (Phil. 4:8).

### Plain Honesty

"No one calls for justice, nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; they conceive evil and bring forth iniquity" (Isa. 59:4). A client went to his attorney and said, "I am going into a business deal with a man I do not trust. I want you to frame an airtight contract that he can't break and will protect me from any sort of mischief he may have on his mind." The attorney replied, "Listen, my friend. There is no group of words in the English language that will take the place of plain honesty between men which will fully protect either of you if you plan to deceive each other." (From Illustrations Unlimited, by James S. Hewett, p. 288)

"They delight in lies; they bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly" (Psalm 62:4). "Therefore, putting away lying, 'Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,' for we are members of one another" (Eph. 4:25 says).

### By Faith We Know...

...The best kind of exercise is godliness. (1Tim. 4:7-8)

...The sharpest of all swords is the word of God. (Heb. 4:12)

...The greatest of all paths is pursued by faith and not by sight. (2Cor. 5:7)

...The richest of all treasures is available even to the poorest of men. (James 2:5; 2Cor. 4:7; Rom. 1:16-17; Eph. 3:8)

...To be rich in good works is far more important than to be rich in this world's goods. (1Tim. 6:17-18)

...The most beautiful apparel is the apparel that adorns the inward being, the heart. (1Peter 3:3-4)

...The most effective manner of revenge is kindness, which can only be administered in the proper spirit. (Prov. 25:21-22; Rom. 12:17-21)

...The most secure of all banks is in heaven, and we must emphasize making deposits there over making deposits in an earthly one. (Matt. 6:19-21)

...The greatest and truest peace must be had while fighting "the good fight of the faith." (1Tim. 6:12; Eph. 6:10-12; Phil. 4:7)

...Those who enjoy the sinful pleasures of this world shall miss the joys of heaven. (Luke 8:14; 1Tim. 5:6)

...The greatest multitude of people ever to assemble shall be gathered in the shortest span of time for the most important reason, and you and I will be there. (Matt. 25:31-46) (Bill Crews)

### **Remember When...**

...a girl was a girl, a boy was a boy, and you could tell the difference?

...you could leave your house unlocked without anxiety?

...you could walk the streets at night without fear?

...the poor were too proud to take charity?

...people bragged about their hometown, their state, their country?

..."sick" meant one was not feeling well?

...a man who went wrong was blamed; not his mother's nursing habits or his father's income?

...people, whether young or old, enjoyed the same kind of music?

...things weren't perfect and people didn't expect them to be?

...people had the capacity for (righteous) indignation?

...folks expected less and valued what they had more?

...everyone was not entitled to a wage whether or not he worked?

...a man's word (or handshake) was his bond? (Author Unknown)

### **Five Factors of Church Growth**

1. Fidelity in Teaching (1Tim. 1:3-4, 4:6, 6:3-5; 2Tim. 1:13, 4:7-8; Titus 1:9)

2. Vitality in Praying (Eph. 6:18; 1Thes. 5:17)

3. Tenacity in Suffering (Heb. 10:34-39; 1Peter 1:7, 3:13-17, 4:12-19; Rev. 2:10)

4. Liberality in Giving (Rom. 12:8; 2Cor. 9:6-11)

5. Purity in Living (Rom. 13:11-14; Titus 2:11-12; 1Peter 1:13-16, 3:8-12) (Craig Meyer)

### **A Good Harvest**

If you plant honesty, you will reap trust.

If you plant goodness, you will reap friends.

If you plant humility, you will reap greatness.

If you plant perseverance, you will reap contentment.

If you plant consideration, you will reap perspective.

If you plant hard work, you will reap success.

If you plant forgiveness, you will reap reconciliation.

### **A Moments Wisdom**

--You can't leave footprints on the sands of time if you are sitting around on your bottom. And who wants to leave bottom-prints on the sands of time?

--Some people drink deeply at the fountain of knowledge; others merely gargle.

--Cheerfulness is contagious, but don't wait to catch it from others; be a carrier.

--Someday is not a day of the week.

- A genuine Christian is like a good watch: he has an open face and busy hands, is made of pure gold, is well regulated, and is full of good works.
- It is not the IQ, but the "I will" that makes a difference in learning.
- There is nothing wrong with having nothing to say, unless you say it out loud.
- Faith with works is a force; faith without works is a farce.
- There are a lot of ways to become a failure, but never taking a risk is the most successful.
- You can't build a reputation on what you are going to do.
- Nothing cooks your goose quicker than a boiling temper.
- He who has a sharp tongue soon cuts his own throat.
- The smallest good deed is better than the grandest intention.
- Self-control is quitting a bad habit; extreme self-control is not telling anyone you did.