

I Was Just Thinking...

By Paul R. Blake

Introduction:

- A. Fascinating how that two reasonable and intelligent persons can come to opposite conclusions given the same set of criteria
 - 1. We approach a matter from the perspective of our own knowledge, experience, and culture.
 - 2. That's why we find the "How many _____ does it take to change a light bulb?" jokes to be so funny. Everyone has a different solution.
- B. It is neither fascinating nor funny when people apply different solutions than what God has supplied for spiritual problems.
 - 1. When God told Isaiah, "Come now, and let us reason together," He intended for us to remember the first person plural pronoun "us."
 - 2. We are to think about what He has told us and discover the wisdom in it, and then follow it heart, soul and mind.
 - 3. Jer. 10:23 - We must be as humbly honest as Jeremiah and acknowledge that we are utterly dependent on God for answers.
- C. Consider Bible persons who did their thinking without God, and therefore thought wrong.

I. ABRAHAM

- A. Gen. 20:11 - Thought saving his life was more important than telling the truth
- B. Do you think it would be okay with God if you lied to save your life?
 - 1. Many think it is acceptable to lie to save face.
 - 2. To lie on income tax returns to save money.
 - 3. Abraham lied to save his life, and God did not approve of his reasoning. What is wrong with our thinking when we lie about more trivial matters?

II. FATHER-IN-LAW OF SAMSON

- A. Judges 15:1-2 - With the best of intentions, he inflicted a great deal of suffering on others
 - 1. "I didn't think anyone would get hurt" is not a valid defense in court; it will certainly not stand in the Judgment.
 - 2. How many are hurt when you are careless with your influence?
 - 3. How many are misled when you are thoughtless with your speech?

III. NAAMAN

- A. 2Kings 5:9-13 (KJV) - Naaman thought pomp and high ritual were essential to working the will of God
 - 1. This has been the story of the ages; man feels he needs to improve on God's means and methods
 - 2. It is the force that drives denominationalism.
 - 3. It is the force that will lead many professed churches of Christ into progressivism

IV. THE WICKED WHO JUDGE GOD

- A. Psalm 50:16-21 - They thought God was just like them, because God did not directly interfere with their evil plans
 - 1. Everyone claims to have God on their side.
 - 2. In reality, they are not on the Lord's side

V. THE RIGHTEOUS WHO JUDGE GOD

- A. Psalm 73:2-17 - "Is God blind, asleep, clueless?!"
 - 1. Bombing abortion clinics, civil disobedience, etc
 - 2. "God said the evil must be punished, and we're going to help Him."

VI. THE RICH FOOL

- A. Luke 12:16-20 - Thought that the greatest good he could do was to provide for his financial needs and future security
 - 1. Who was carried by angels to Abraham's bosom in Paradise: the rich man who got all of his financial ducks in a row, or the beggar Lazarus?
 - 2. We have made the instruction to work for a living into a command that supercedes all other duties of a Christian
 - 3. Look at how it has evolved:
 - a. The industrial age ushered in shift work
 - b. It became acceptable for men to begin missing services for work
 - c. When women began entering the workplace in greater numbers, it became acceptable for them to miss services for work
 - d. Now if a teen has a part time job it is okay for him to miss services; after all, he is working
 - e. Recently, I heard that it is okay for kids to miss services for after school activities, because they might get scholarship money for college that will help them in future work
 - 4. What an elaborate framework of behold I thoughts we have erected to help us to feel comfortable about elevating the instruction to work over the command to assemble!

VII. SAUL OF TARSUS

- A. Acts 26:9-11 - Zeal is not a substitute for soundness
 - 1. Too many get an idea, plan, or purpose fixed so firmly in their heads that would take a personal visitation from the Lord to shake it loose

VIII. RIGHT THINKING

- A. Psalm 119:59 - When one stops to really think about it, he will realize that God is right, every time.
- B. Isa. 55:7-9; 1Cor. 13:11 - When one stops to really think about it, he will realize that his own reasoning is very limited
- C. Rom. 12:3 - When one stops to really think about it, he will put restrictions on his own thinking.
- D. 1Cor. 4:6 - When one stops to really think about it, in some matters he will choose to trust God's thinking instead of his own.

Conclusion:

- A. I am comforted knowing that I do not have to depend on being right in my own reasoning in order to get to heaven; I can place my confidence in God whose reasoning far exceeds my own.
- B. He developed the perfect law of liberty before the world was made, designing it to completely supply our every spiritual need.
- C. 2Tim. 3:16-17