

Potential



John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

THE POTENTIAL OF A RENEWED MIND

Once the process of renewing your mind (What we considered last time) advances, your mind begins to experience the necessary freedom to explore its proper potential.

- **FREEDOM** from ignorance (Jn 8:32 you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free).
- **UNLIMITED** access to the truth (1 Jn 3:20 ...God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything)
- **TAUGHT** by God Himself. (John 6:45 It is written in the Prophets, And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me).



KNOWING THE MIND OF GOD

The Christian mind should be a repository of God's revealed truth. That is why the Bible exists: to reveal who God is primarily to the Christian. Truth does not originate from humans but from God.

There is nothing in the way God has designed mankind that prevents the possibility of our knowing the mind of God. He is the God who created men and women as creatures capable of knowing His mind and will and who has made information about His mind and will available in revealed truths. (Ronald Nash -RTS Prof.)

Therefore, Christians should be the champions of truth in a world filled with lies that are deceptively disguised and falsely declared as the truth. **There is nothing irrational or illogical about the content of divine revelation that we cannot ultimately know and share with others.**



DISCUSSION: Critical and Passive Thinking

1 Cor. 1:25 the foolishness of God [is not foolishness at all and] is wiser than men [far beyond human comprehension], and the weakness of God is stronger than men [far beyond the limits of human effort] AMP

- **Critical Thinking** does not quickly accept things at face value but asks clear probing questions and is active in utilizing Godly logic and wisdom to avoid errors and unreasoned conclusions.
- **Passive Thinking** can easily overlook the availability of new information and fails to analyze matters effectively.



CHALLENGE: Thinking Is Essential

Thinking is what shapes who you are. How you think about yourself, God and the World is the greatest factor in your development.

Proverbs 23:7 for as a man thinks in his heart, so is he Therefore, Critical thinking is essential, particularly for a Christian, because as his mind begins to be renewed by the mind of God, he must cast off thinking that is based on human wisdom and not Godly wisdom.

1 Cor 1:19-20 For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? **Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?**

Potential

The Christian mind has great potential - it must be invested!

BLINDED MINDS

Before beginning to have our minds renewed by God, our minds were blinded by the god of this world.

2 Cor. 4:4 In their case **the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.**

Even after salvation, Christians can easily be deceived to allow the world to do some of their thinking for them. This is exactly what happened to Eve in the garden (Gen 3, 2 Cor. 11:3)

- First, she allowed Satan to influence her own thinking
- Second, she did some of her own thinking independent of God
- Finally, she acted on her own conclusions, ignoring God's command

This mind was wasted because it was blinded, and so too have many minds since.

INVESTED MINDS

God created logic and the ability for us come to come to reason (Is 1:18)

The Bible teaches us to invest our minds in thinking Biblically about the world we live in.

Both **divine revelation** and **human reasoning** must be used in balance. We must both think critically, embracing natural revelation - and at the same time - value the higher level and credibility of God's special revelation as seen in the Bible. Both are necessary.

The proper balance comes by beginning with Scripture, which is inerrant. Where the Bible speaks to a discipline, its truth is superior.

When the Bible does not speak, there is a whole world of God's creation to explore for knowledge, but with the caution that man's ability to draw conclusions is fallible, unlike God's Word.

Proverbs 9:10 **The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.**

NEXT THINGS

From here we will turn to look at a whole set of issues in which the way we think about them is of vital importance:

Worship, psychology, gender, science, education, history, government, economics, literature, music, entertainment, etc.