

Minding the Things of the Spirit

(Rom 8:5-8)

- Remember Paul is contrasting the believer with the unbeliever

- I. Testing ourselves
 - A) 2 Cor 13:5- It is good to examine the faith we profess and compare it with what the scriptures say concerning it
 - B) Neh 8:10- “The joy of the Lord is our strength”
 - 1. Assurance produces joy, while lack of assurance in a Christian quenches fruit bearing
 - 2. These portions of scripture which test our profession ought to be pleasing and safe for us; while the unregenerate professor is irritated by them and avoids them
 - C) Remember Paul is not contrasting 2 “types” or “levels” of Christians
 - 1. Rom 8:9- Paul does not say “if any man have not the Spirit he is a carnal Christian”

- II. What is true of a Christian
 - A) The terms are the same as we saw with the unbeliever:
 - 1. “After (under) the Spirit”- habitually dominated by the Holy Spirit
 - a) The general tenor of his life is ruled by the Spirit
 - b) Rom 8:14- “Led by the Spirit”
 - 2. “Minds the things of the Spirit”- Sets his mind, emotions, desires upon, pursues, interested in the chief position
 - a) 1 Cor 2:6-16- The 2 men in contrast
 - 1) The believer sets his minds eye on them, not just as a habit forcefully
 - 3. “Things of the Spirit”- The Holy Spirit
 - a) **Negative:**
 - 1) Not simply “man’s spirit”
 - (a) Man’s spirit can seek spirit-ism, mysticism, other realms, etc.
 - 2) Not simply “interested in religion”
 - (a) All mankind is interested in religion, even if his religion is atheism or humanism
 - (b) Religion- *re + ligo* = “To bind back again”
 - (c) The most savage opponents of Christ were extremely religious
 - 3) Not simply “interested in theology”
 - (a) Many take up theology as a subject or even a hobby
 - (b) Man can learn and teach theological systems and be lost
 - (c) Many have the mind type that enjoys theology as if philosophy

- 4) Not simply “interested in spiritual phenomena”
 - (a) Signs, miracles, angels, afterlife, tongues, things from the spirit realm
 - (b) This is an earmark of most cults
- b) **Positive:**
 - 1) “Things of the Spirit”- the things to which the Holy Spirit draws his attention
 - (a) 1 Cor 2:11- “The things of God”
 - (b) John 14:26- The Holy Spirit teaches the doctrines of Christ
 - (1) 1 Cor 2:7- These “things” are completely hidden to the world
 - (2) John 14:17- The world cannot receive the things of the Spirit
 - (3) 1 Cor 2:14- They are “foolishness” to the world
 - (4) 1 Cor 2:7- These things are a “mystery” to the world, for the “mystery” is that which can only be known to man if God reveals it to him
 - 2) The Christian is most concerned about his soul and his relationship to God
 - (a) He doesn’t see himself primarily as a husband, or father, professional, etc.
 - (1) He is these things and operates as such, but his mind comes always back to his relationship to God
 - (2) He was at enmity with God and alienated, but now God is at the center of his life
 - 3) The Christian is not simply concerned with the afterlife, judgment, escaping hell. He is highly concerned with the here and the now also
 - (a) He is concerned with the current state of his soul
 - (b) He is concerned with his sanctification and service to God
 - (c) He must live in the world and has other relationships, duties and activities, even hobbies, etc.
 - (1) But his main goal is the pursuit of God and communion with Christ
 - (2) If this means giving up these other things, the Christian is willing to do so
 - (3) Matt 6:33 & 10:37
 - 4) The Christian is concerned about his failures and lack
 - (a) He mourns his sin, his weakness, his lack of love, his prayer life
 - (b) He not only thinks on these things, he cannot escape them because he is primarily concerned about his soul (things of the Spirit)

III. The things of the Spirit

A) The Holy Spirit always leads us to Christ!

1. John 15:26- The Spirit testifies of Christ
 2. John 16:13-14- The Spirit glorifies Christ
- B) The Spirit teaches the believer and gives him a confidence unknown to the world concerning the “things of God”:
1. His Person- The Christian doesn't fully understand the deity/humanity of Christ, but he has no trouble believing it
 2. His work (especially atonement)- The Christian doesn't fully comprehend all that Christ did/does, but he believes it, sees his need, knows there is no other way
 3. His way- The Christian is concerned about the way of salvation, about justification by faith, and all his doubts are concerning himself and not Christ nor His work and way
 4. His Word- The Christian believes the word of God, accepts divine inspiration, he doesn't fret over textual criticism or arguments concerning translation
 5. His presence- The Christian hungers and thirsts for righteousness and communion with God
 6. His intercession- The Christian is concerned with his prayer life, he sees his lack, he is unsatisfied and desires more diligence and depth
 7. His people- The Christian is concerned about and desires fellowship with the saints, he cares for them and is concerned for them and their welfare
 8. His creation- The Christian is concerned with the world around him, not simply politics, but sin and its outcomes and affects
 9. His glory- The Christian is concerned for the glory and honor of God, and is bothered by blasphemy and lack of thankfulness
- C) 1 Cor 2:14-16- The Christian has a growing understanding of world events and the causes of them, while he himself becomes more and more confusing to the world
- What has been your reaction to these things? Do you relate and find comfort in them, even though we do not fully understand. Or are you agitated by all this, does it seem dull, foolish or beyond perception?