

BE A MIND BUILDER

Some years ago the United Negro College Fund conducted an advertisement campaign when they introduced the catchphrase, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste." True words! How vital is the mind? Man is said to be made in the image of God, Genesis 1:26. When one considers the vastness of the universe, the intricacies of the cell, the design of the solar system, the complexity of the human body, the elaborate plan of man's redemption, and the interaction of a providential God through answering prayer, an Infinite Mind **at work** must be concluded. Being in the image of God, man too has a powerful, build-able, and influence-able mind!

The mind *can* be a most destructive tool for evil. Think about the evil that has been conjured up in the minds of men in history. Some of the most deviant and defiling and inhumane plans have been unfolded, consideration of which leaves one disheartened. Minds used to fabricate the most heinous acts in times gone by have been done without the support of God. Paul said, "For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot," Romans 8:7. Historically, those who have neglected God by having their minds saturated with evil have done so at the expense of a relationship with God. Speaking of those whose minds feasted upon evil the apostle said, "And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done," Romans 1:28. Though minds focused on doing evil are bad, simple neglect of our minds can foster opportunities for evil as well. How much worse is a mind that plans evil than one that ignores building the mind for good?

We live in such a wide open and busy environment. With everything competing for our attention it is hard to maintain the focus of our minds on things that are good and wholesome. The Lord challenges you, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect," Romans 12:2.

The Lord has set some amazing benefits before our eyes through many precious promises that serve as encouragers of the mind to live and do right. Under the same token, warnings of judgment for disobedience also serve as reminders of a need to live correctly. After forty years in the wilderness, Moses set before the Israelites a series of blessings and cursings that they were to remind themselves of when they entered the land of promise, especially as they would be dwelling among the Canaanites whose minds were on things much different than the God of heaven, Deuteronomy 30:1.

God wants us as Christians to dwell on, think about, study, and apply the blessings *and cursings* of the Gospel as well. This is no easy task, especially since the world has such a pull on us. Paul said, ". . . I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin," Romans 7:25. The Lord understands this! We are human! However, He expects man to choose to follow

Him, not just with his head, but with his actions. Jesus requires undivided attention and action in the direction of godliness. When asked what was the most important command He said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with **all your mind**," Matthew 22:37. Such a command is all-inclusive! Nothing held back! Expand your mind for God. The more you do it, the more successful you will be at combating and overcoming the challenges of the flesh. Heaven is worth it all.

Here is an opportunity! Georgia School of Preaching and Biblical Studies has classes for all Christians to utilize in fulfilling the challenge of building the mind for God. The Spring, 2007 quarter is to begin March 12th and 13th on the Marietta campus, and March 15th on the Buford Campus. At Marietta, two of four classes offered can be taken on Monday night, and two of three classes can be taken on Tuesday nights. On Thursday evenings a class on the "Pre-Exilic Minor Prophets" will be taught by **Owen Freeman** here at the church building. A list of other available studies is at the Welcome Desk in the foyer. Pick one up today. Build your mind with the knowledge of God.

—Scott