

## Living Holy in an Unholy World

MMBC

October 11, 2017

Lesson 4

Memory Verse: 3:2

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Review: A Stable Walk with God

Lesson 4 **Think Like a Christian**

### Object Lesson

Purpose: To help us understand how the fullness of God benefits us.

Activity: Will be presented

Filling our hearts and minds with the things of Christ pushes the sin out of our lives!

What did we learn from this lesson?

What happens when we are full?

**Into the Word:** Read Colossians 2:8-15

Think about our current world and what we would call human philosophies. The world teaches now that you only need yourself to achieve your personal salvation. On the contrary, the Bible teaches us we **cannot** do it without Christ. Look at 2:8a and verse 9.

We can't save ourselves and we don't have it in ourselves to do good! We need Jesus? We need the Holy Spirit as our guide! The Bible teaches we aren't "basically good". Read Romans 3:23.

How does Paul's way of thinking differ from the world's thinking process?

Cross reference: Colossians 2:8 with Philippians 4:8.

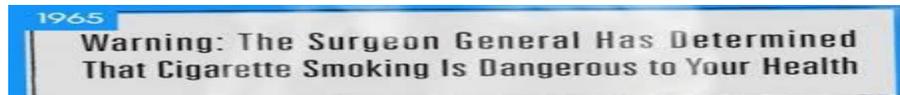
### Think On These Things

Every minute in every hour of every day, we are thinking. You are even thinking right now. The problem is we have so many worldly influences that can corrode our thinking process. **Discussion:** List some worldly influences that could contaminate our thinking.

Do you seek to control your thinking? If so, are you actively trying to change your way of thinking? Or, are we victims of allowing outside forces to control our thoughts?

### Practical Thinking

If you've smoked you've seen this message on the back of a pack of cigarettes.



Tobacco manufacturers put warnings on cigarette packages so they can make it known that smoking can be hazardous to your health. In the same way, wrong thinking can be hazardous to your health.

Here's a spiritual test to help you gain control of your thought life so you can live a holy life. Likewise, bad thoughts can be hazardous to your health! Think about what you are thinking about right at this moment?

Is it true? Is it honest? Is it just? Is it pure? Is it lovely? Is it of good report?

What do you think would happen if we could use Philippians 4:8 as a grid for all our thoughts?

Discuss Proverbs 23:7a

The important question is: How do we change our minds?

Revisit Colossians 2:8...notice the word "nonsense" in the NLT

You can't allow others to control your thinking. You can't allow these so called "new wave" idealists make you think wrong is right when you know wrong is wrong! Again, how do you change your thinking?

Consider these questions:

What about the **music** you listen to? What about the **movies** you watch? What about the **videos** you rent? What about the **radio stations** you flip on in the morning? What about the **books** you read? What about the **shows** you watch on TV?

2 Corinthians 10:5 says that we should "**take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.**" In order to do that, you've got to look at the sources of your input. If garbage goes in, garbage comes out.

Discuss the cutting away of our sinful nature!

Our bad thoughts lead to bad actions!

Paul uses the analogy of a man's foreskin being removed to show how this "taking away" leads to our salvation in Christ. Our sinful nature has to be removed!

### **Action Point**

Think about one thing that is master over you. Spend time in silent prayer asking God to give you His power in that area.