

You Shall Love The Lord Your God With All Your Mind

No. 156

Introduction.

- I. Once Jesus was asked, “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” (Matt. 22:36).
 - A. Jesus answered. (Matt. 22:37,38).
 - B. In this reply Jesus asserted that we are to love God with all our hearts and souls. He also emphasized we are to love God with all of our minds.
 - C. I believe that this part of the great commandment has been overlooked by many Christians. Very few lessons have been presented on the meaning and importance of loving God with all of our minds.
- II. Let’s discuss what it means to love God with all of our minds.
 - I. **By Intellectual Honesty** - We love God with the mind by intellectual honesty.
 - A. God is a God of truth and intellectual honesty means that we are to be **truth seekers**.
 1. It means that we are to believe and teach the truth when we find it.
 2. It means that we are to believe and teach the truth even if contradicts our beliefs and lives and means we must make changes, even radical changes, in our lives.
 - B. Let me give some illustrations regarding intellectual honesty.
 1. The story is told of a **Hindoo** who contended that it was sinful to eat meat because it involved the killing of animals. He insisted, therefore, that it was one’s duty to live on a vegetable diet. When some one showed him his vegetable diet under a microscope, he solved the problem, not by changing his diet, but by smashing the microscope! Isn’t that the attitude many of us take with reference to truth? We refuse to accept it and pursue our own way. We smash the microscope.
 2. **One man is reported to have said**, “If I am wrong, I am ready to be convinced of my error; but I would like to see the man who can convince me.”
 3. **Another man said**, “I am not seeking the truth, I already have it.” His mind was closed to the idea that he might not have all the truth and that he might be wrong about something..
 4. **A number of years ago, when I was preaching in Liberal, Kansas**, I was studying with two men who were of the persuasion that the kingdom of God was not established until 1914. Though I strongly disagreed with these men, I thought they were intellectually honest until the second time I studied with them. In trying to show them the kingdom was established in the first century (about 33 A.D.), I asked them to read a number of scriptures. We read Col 1:13. Paul states the brethren in Colossae were in the kingdom. This was written about A.D. 62. They had little or no comment on that verse. Another scripture I asked them to read was Revelation 1:9. In this verse, which was written in about 96 A.D., John stated that he was in the kingdom. When these men read this verse they got a strange look on their faces and one of them said after several moments hesitation, “O, there are lots of kingdoms” and then tried to hurry to another passage. They were not intellectually honest on the subject of the kingdom. They were more

interested in proving their position than they were in pursuing the truth.

5. Someone has written:

“Of all human ambitions, an open mind, eagerly expectant of new discoveries and ready to remold convictions in light of added knowledge and dispelled ignorance and misapprehensions, is the noblest, rarest, and the most difficult to achieve.”

6. Once **John C Calhoun**, on his dead bed, said of Daniel Webster, his great antagonist in constitutional law,

“Show him a fact in the path of his argument, and Mr. Webster is dumb.”

That is splendid testimony to intellectual honesty. We do not love God with our minds unless we have this kind of intellectual integrity.

II. **Diligently Study And Share The Truth** - We love God with the mind when we diligently study and share the truth.

A. Each Christian has the responsibility to diligently study the word of God for himself. He is not to depend on others. He spends spend hours studying and meditating upon the word that he may know the commandments of God and then obey them.

1. In the **first psalm** the attitude of the godly is described. (Psa. 1:1,2).

2. The writer of the **119th psalm** said. (Psa. 119:16).

3. **Solomon** said. (Prov. 23:23).

4. **Jesus** said. (Jn. 8:32).

5. **Paul** wrote. (2 Tim. 2:15).

6. **Peter** said. (1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18).

7. **The Bereans** had the right attitude toward the word of God. When Paul and Silas preached to them in the Synagogues, Luke states. (Acts 17:10, 11).

8. Brethren, we need to spend more time studying the word of God today. Many Christians seldom study the word of God and do not know the truth and are unable to teach it and defend it. This is not loving God with all our minds.

B. It is important that those who love God with the mind **attend Bible school**. The Bible school has it weaknesses, but it has its strengths and is an effective way of learning the truth of God. Much of the knowledge I have gained through the years has come through Sunday school and Wednesday night classes.

1. Recently I read about a **preacher whose Uncle asked him to get him a Bible**. He explained that he had learned all about the Bible, as a child, in Bible school, but that his wife had not had that training and he wanted the Bible so that she could learn. This man did not study at home or attend Bible classes. This

man erroneously thought he had mastered the Bible, as a child, and had lost interest in further study.

2. **His attitude is found too often among Christians.** There are many adults and teenagers who never study at home. They do not feel a need to attend Bible class. Many of these either consciously or unconsciously feel they have mastered the Bible sufficiently and need little, if any, study.

3. It is doubtful that they have actually mastered the Bible. It is questionable that they understand what it means to love God with all their minds. It is unlikely that they are able to give a thus saith the Lord for the hope that is in them.

C. We also love God with all our minds when we diligently share our knowledge of Him and salvation.

1. It is important that we learn the truth.

2. It is not to be kept to ourselves.

3. Many of the recent missionaries have talked about what some have done even with their limited knowledge.

III. **Careful What We Put In It** - We love God with the mind by being careful what we put in it.

A. What we put into our minds is of utmost importance. The word of God affirms. (Prov. 23:7).

1. If we think on pure, wholesome things, our lives will be pure.

2. If we think on base, sensuous matters, our lives will be impure.

3. Jesus taught this in Matthew 15. (Matt. 15:10-20).

MAT 15:10 And after He called the multitude to Him, He said to them, "Hear, and understand. 11 "Not what enters into the mouth defiles the man, but what proceeds out of the mouth, this defiles the man."12 Then the disciples came and said to Him, "Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this statement?"13 But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant shall be rooted up.14 "Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit." 15 And Peter answered and said to Him, "Explain the parable to us." 16 And He said, "Are you still lacking in understanding also? 17 "Do you not understand that everything that goes into the mouth passes into the stomach, and is eliminated? 18 "But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. 19 "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders. 20 "These are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man."

B. **Beloved, Jesus put this emphasis on the heart or mind.** We must be careful what we put into our hearts or minds.

1. We must not read the filth that is flooding our books and magazines. We must shun the movies which glamorize, pre-marital and extra-marital infidelity and loose morality.
2. This filth is breaking down our morality. It is leading us away from the great God of heaven.

IV. **When We Trust God** - We love God with all our minds when we trust God.

A. When we worry, we harm our bodies and mind and destroy our happiness. It shows a lack of trust in God.

B. Those who love God with their minds will put their complete, wholehearted trust in God. Complete trust in God will give us peace of mind and will give us the courage to conquer ourselves and the world around us.

1. Paul wrote these words that we should think on and put to practice every day. (Phil. 4:4-7).
2. Peter said. (1 Pet. 5:7).
3. **Years ago a mother and her little four-year daughter** were preparing to retire for the night. The child was afraid of the dark, and the mother, alone with the child, felt fearful also. When the light was out, the child caught a glimpse of the moon outside the window. She asked, "Mother, is the moon God's light?" The mother said, "Yes, God's lights are always shining." The next question was, "Will God blow out His lights and go to sleep?" "No, my child, God never goes to sleep." Then, out of the simplicity of a child's faith, this little one said, "Well, as long as God is awake, I am not afraid."
4. Oh, how we need this childlike faith in God. Those who love God with their minds do trust God and say. (Psa. 23:4; 46:1).

V. **Transform Our Minds** - We love God with all our minds when we transform our minds.

A. Paul wrote. (Rom. 12:2).

B. Paul commanded that we be not conformed to this world, but that we should be transformed by the renewing or transforming of our minds.

1. The sensual man loves the base, sinful things of the world.
2. The Christian must develop in his mind a love for spiritual things. He must develop a hunger for righteousness. He cleaves to the good, and hates the evil. He sets his mind on things above.

Conclusion.

I. Beloved, it is a commandment for us to love God with all our minds. Let's not give God part of our minds, but let's completely devote (surrender) our minds to Him that we may be pleasing to God and be saved.

II. As we bring this lesson to a close, I would like to urge those outside of Christ to surrender your hearts, souls and minds to God. God will save those who surrender their all to Him and His Son.

III. Come and let God save you as we sing the Lord's invitation.

