

Reaching the World for Christ One Man at a Time

John Crawford

I. Introduction.

- A. Growing in Christ.
- B. We can develop thought patterns and weed out some of the material that comes in our minds. (Proverbs 23:7, Matthew 12, Jeremiah 6:19)
- C. We are where we are today because of our thinking and thought patterns. (Mark 7:21-23, Genesis 6:5)
- D. By nature the man's heart is bad, and he needs to be constantly reminded that he needs to develop a thought process to think correctly and accept basic truths to help one to live.

II. Basic truths of life.

- A. Enter the straight and narrow gate. (Matthew 7:13-14)
- B. We ought to be willing to challenge the norms of our society - why do we do the things that we do?
- C. Perhaps we ought to work longer hours and for longer in life.
- D. It is important to realize why people do what they do - people are wicked and need checks and balances.
- E. Christians are still wicked - they are just forgiven. (Proverbs 15:15)
- F. Today we can easily be caught up in what we are supposed to and what we are not supposed to.
- G. If you do not want to do something, you do not have to - consider what is best to do.
- H. Do not let the world squeeze you into its mold.

III. Question and answer.

- A. Where we draw the line on where to think about God's ways and society's or parents' ways: we rebel against society and parents only when the society dictates about keeping one's mouth shut about Jesus. Mostly there is no conflict.
- B. We are not going to be able to think rightly if we do not put right thoughts in our mind.
- C. Tradition does not hurt if it does not go against the Bible.

Changing our Thought Patterns

John Crawford

IV. How to renew the mind. (Romans 12:1-2)

A. Spiritual growth is mind renewal. (Philippians 2:5, Romans 8:5-8)

B. Read large amounts of Scripture by the clock.

C. Reading Scripture renews the mind because God's thoughts are in the Scripture. (Matthew 7:13-14)

D. In older age it is easier to realize the effects of things like money. (1 Timothy 6:10, Proverbs 13:11)

E. Changing thoughts takes will power, but it is all a step at a time.

F. Watch passive use of time so you have more time to invest in God's Word.