

THE HEAVENLY MIND OF CHRIST

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God.² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.⁴ When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. (1 Colossians 3:1-4)

It is vital as maturing sons to firstly have our focus on things above, and then to see all things with and through the mind of Christ, not falling into the old thinking patterns of the carnal mind. All things can be seen carnally or spiritually, and all things can be seen with a temporal mindset or eternal mindset:

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.⁶ For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. (Romans 8:5-6)

And again:

Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

We are all engaged in an epic battle in our minds, as the flesh strives against the Spirit. This battle rages in our minds, as the carnal mind seeks to usurp the throne of our hearts and re-establish its way of death:

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12)

The spirit of antichrist sits in the temple of God, which we are, claiming to be God, and this malignant, deceptive spirit is only destroyed by the light of Christ breaking in and dispersing the darkness, burning up the wheat and chaff with heavenly fire:

And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. (2 Thessalonians 2:8)

Within this process, every thought must ultimately be brought into subjection to the mind of Christ:

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the

knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ (1 Corinthians 10:4-5)

...and those which do not conform to the divine must be removed:

But He answered and said, “Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. (Matthew 15:13-14)

This is a meticulous and lifelong process, as we are brought into the very likeness of God. This metamorphosis into the image of Jesus Christ takes place as we behold Him, being changed from one degree of glory to another:

Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. (1 Corinthians 3:17-18)

This being true, we must increasingly be seeing all things with a heavenly perspective, as our mind is renewed and we are transformed:

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:1-2)

For indeed we are seated with Christ in heavenly places, and must live, think and act from that reality:

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:4-6)

The Holy Spirit acts as a seal upon our minds and thoughts, as we become increasingly spiritually focused in all things:

... “Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.” (Revelation 7:3)

...and it is the Spirit which leads, guides and teaches us, so that we have no need for the wisdom of man, or the emptiness of the carnal mind:

These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy^[d] Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.¹⁵ But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet

he himself is rightly judged by no one.¹⁶ For “who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?”^[e] But we have the mind of Christ. (1 Corinthians 2:13-16)

And again:

But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will^[a] abide in Him. (1 John 2:27)

So then, we must view all things, and all people, with an elevated mindset, as we walk in the Spirit, for in this way we will see all things and all people as God sees them. This will also enable us to see the wonderfully infinite and boundless nature of His love:

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,^[c] ¹⁵from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:14-19)

It can be easy to grasp a truth intellectually, while still fall short of its practical application. Any follower of Christ will testify of moments of flashing revelation, when the understanding of the letter, or the husk of a truth, opens up in an instant to the full spiritual reality, and something that was understood by rote, as it were, becomes another dimension of Christ that now manifests through one's life.

All truths are summed up into Christ, and the reality of God's great love, and more specifically His very nature *being* love, is the fount and source of all spiritual blessing. Yet even in this great reality, we can have a carnal, intellectual belief that does not find its deeper manifestation in our lives. I can believe God loves all men, and in turn I can then believe that I should love all men, and I can even act like I love all men, but unless I actually *see* men through the same lens of compassionate and loving eyes that our Father does, I will fall short of truly loving.

Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. (2 Corinthians 5:16)

When we see all men from the perspective of the Spirit instead of the flesh, we no longer hold their sins against them, as we now see the atonement of Christ in its perfection and completeness. We no longer have to be bitter when we see temporal transgressions, as we know that each sinner is going to be brought into subjection to Christ in the fullness of time. We no longer have to marvel at evil in the world, but instead we can look out from the heavenly pinnacle of the glory of Jesus Christ and see a universe that is being brought into subject to the firstborn Son of God, and see the light that is shining ever brighter unto the perfect day.

But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. ²³ But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. ²⁷ For "He has put all things under His feet."^[a] But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. ²⁸ Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all. (1 Corinthians 15:20-28)

Amen!