

Ephesians 4:17-24 – From Braindead to Brainwashed

Intro – What do you think about? Your thought-life *shapes* who you are; it *makes* who you are; and it *reveals* who you are. Prov. 23:7a - “*For as a man thinks within himself, so he is...*” Our minds are amazing things. As human beings we are made in the image of God and part of that image is our mind. God has made us reasoning/thinking creatures. Man is a thinker because God has given him the ability to think. (*Rodin’s Statue*) But man’s thinking has been corrupted. Sin affects the mind. Sin is a mind virus. When man rebelled against God and fell into sin, that sin affected the whole of the person. The pristine image of God that was imprinted upon humanity was broken by sin. Mankind has a shattered visage and so, like a broken mirror, he can no longer reflect the image he was made to reflect. Man still has his mind but it was now marred. Sin brought darkness, decay and death into our lives and into our minds. Is. 1:5-6 - “*...the whole head is sick and whole heart is faint. From the sole of the foot even to the head there is nothing sound in it.*” When God saves a man, he renews the man. He makes him born again and gives him a new life with a new mind ^{2Cor. 5:17}. Our text today is part of the practical application of God’s salvation. A Christian should live differently because he thinks differently. So, we are going to think a little today about going from *Brain-dead* to *Brainwashed* because we are *Brand-new*.

BRAINDEAD

- The admonition in verse 17 is from the apostle and from our Lord – 4:17a
 - Tag-team approach to make this important point
 - The important item is our WALK (walk = the way we live our life)
 - 4:1 4:17 5:1-2a 5:8 5:15
- Our *walking* is determined by our *thinking*. Our thoughts inform our walk
 - There is a link between walking and thinking. Our brains determine our behavior.
 - Thinking....walking....doing Prov. 23:7a
- A six-fold description of a depraved mind...sinful mind...man’s mind before salvation
 - *Futility of their mind* 4:17
 - Trivial pursuit a mind consumed with useless/futile/empty things
 - Phil. 3:19
 - *Darkened in their understanding* 4:18
 - Matt. 6:22-23 Rom. 1:21
 - As the darkness grows in our society remember it starts from the mind
 - Disturbing movie trailers- someone had to think up these things
 - *Excluded from the life of God* 4:18
 - 1 Cor. 1:21 Rom. 3:10-11 Psalm 10:4 - NKJV
 - *Ignorance in them* 4:18
 - Agnostic 2 Tim. 3:7
 - *Hardness of their heart* 4:18
 - “Heart” is synonymous with mind ...and mankind has a heart problem

- Calloused - 4:19a
 - sin causes the mind to lose sensitivity to that which is holy
- Titus 1:15 sums up man's mind - brain-defiled...brain-dark.....brain-dead
 - Gen. 6:5
- A three-fold description of sinful action brought on by sinful thinking - 4:19
 - Sensuality Impurity Greed
 - Mark 7:21-23

BRAINWASHED

- Now there is a contrast between the pagan mind and Christian mind
 - 4:20-23
- Being a Christian to be like Christ as you follow Christ...to learn Christ - 4:20
 - A disciple is a learner - Matt. 11:29 - "...*learn of Me...*"
 - The Christian life is learning to think and act like a Christian.
 - Phil 2:5 - NKJV "*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.*"
 - 1 Cor. 2:16
- To learn Christ right is to learn to lay aside the old life and old ways
 - 4:21-22
 - A "Christian" message that doesn't demand a changed life is not a true Christian message. You can't have Christ without change
 - 2 Cor. 5:17
- A new life requires a new mind and mind-set
 - 4:23
 - For actions to change our thinking must change. Rom. 12:2
 - The Christian life is a life of repentance. Repentance = change of mind
- A Christian is one who has gone from being brain-dead to being brainwashed
 - The life of a Christian is the life of right thinking
 - Phil. 4:8 Psalm 1:1-2
 - Right thinking will lead to right walking

BRAND-NEW

- Sin broke something within us
 - The image of God was not lost but it was shattered/broken...
 - Sin made us unable to reflect the character of God
 - the story of Humpty Dumpty is the story of humanity
 - great fall....all the kings horses /men can't put Humpty together again
 - But the King can!
- The Christian is someone who God has made new with a renewed capacity to reflect His image. 4:24
 - God takes us from being brain-dark, braindead to brain washed
- What do you think about?
 - Your thought-life shapes who you are; makes who you are and reveals who you are? Prov. 23:7a