**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | The Battle for Your Mind |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2145 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. There is a sinister and deadly war going on, and the battleground is your mind and your soul.
      1. Those of us who are Christians are caught up in this battle.
   2. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
   3. Today’s message is a warning, but it is also an encouragement.
      1. When we were born again, we were born to win.
      2. God did not save us for us to live a defeated life.
         1. 2 Corinthians 2:14
   4. God’s plan for us is victory.
      1. He has a plan for us to have victory in our thought life.
2. the warfare of our foe (2 corinthians 10:4-5)
   1. 2 Corinthians 10:4
   2. There is a war, and our enemy is not flesh and blood.
      1. Ephesians 6:12
         1. The devil wars against us.
         2. According to this verse, there is a deadly array of demonic hosts.
            1. They are invisible and are dedicated to the destruction of your thought life.
            2. They are under the authority of the prince of darkness, the devil himself.
   3. 2 Corinthians 10:5
      1. This verse speaks of imaginations, knowledge and thought.
      2. There is a war.
         1. Satan is behind it, and your mind is the battleground.
   4. Satan’s desire is to conquer and to control your thought life, and then to make your thought life a citadel from which he can war against God.
      1. Satan wants your mind.
   5. There is a difference between your mind and your brain.
      1. The Bible is very clear and plain about this distinction.
      2. Your mind does the thinking, and your brain is what you think with.
         1. This is similar to the relationship between a piano and the pianist.
            1. The pianist uses the piano to express the music.
      3. Your brain and your mind are separate.
   6. When we get saved, we have the mind of Christ.
      1. This doesn’t mean that we have a higher IQ, but we have a different capacity for thinking.
   7. The fact that we have been saved does not mean that the war is over for us.
      1. 2 Corinthians 11:3
         1. The Apostle Paul is writing here to the Corinthian Christians.
         2. The word “simplicity” means “purity,” “sincerity.”
            1. It is single-minded devotion.
         3. The devil wants to corrupt your mind.
      2. 2 Corinthians 11:2
         1. “Godly jealousy” is a good jealousy that wants to protect those whom we love.
            1. Parents have a right to be jealous over their children that they might be protected.
         2. Paul uses the analogy in this verse to say that the people at Corinth were his spiritual children.
            1. They were the bride of Christ, and Paul did not want them to be corrupted or sullied.
            2. Paul wants to protect the church.

He wants the church to have that pure, sincere love and singlemindedness for Jesus Christ.

* 1. The devil knows that if he can get your mind, then he can corrupt you and pull you away from the Lord Jesus Christ.
  2. Genesis 6:5
     1. God destroyed an entire civilization because of their thought life.
  3. Romans 8:6
  4. Proverbs 23:7
     1. We need to guard our minds.
  5. Your mind is to be fastened upon the Lord Jesus Christ.
     1. Isaiah 26:3
  6. Not only does the devil want your mind, but God wants your mind.
     1. It is through your mind that God reaches you.
  7. Why is there a battle for your mind?
     1. God communicates to you through your mind.
        1. Ephesians 4:17-18
           1. “The vanity of their mind” in this passage means “the emptiness of their mind.”
           2. The word “heart” here refers to the mind.
        2. We have many church services today that put the emphasis upon emotionalism, but God does not communicate to you through your emotions.
           1. Emotions are the shallowest part of your nature.
           2. Salvation is the deepest work of God.
        3. God communicating through your mind does not mean rationalism or intellectualism.
           1. This is God revealing Himself to your mind.
     2. God changes you by changing your mind.
        1. Ephesians 4:23
           1. God renews us in the spirit of our mind.
        2. You can change the way you live by changing the way you think.
           1. Romans 12:2
     3. God controls you through your mind.
        1. Romans 8:6

1. the weakness of our flesh (2 Corinthians 10:3)
   1. The point of this message is not to encourage us to simply think better thoughts.
      1. In our own flesh, we are weak.
   2. 2 Corinthians 10:3
   3. Our flesh (our natural state) does not have what it takes to have the right thought process.
   4. We live in the flesh, and we all experience problems, disappointments, sicknesses and perplexities.
      1. When we become Christians, we don’t become immune to these things.
      2. But the warfare is not after the flesh.
         1. There is no way that the flesh can overcome this.
         2. 2 Corinthians 10:3
            1. He is talking about the weakness of the flesh.
         3. We do not fight with flesh and blood because we don’t fight against flesh and blood.
            1. Ephesians 6:10-13
            2. Our battle is not with the Democrats or the Republicans.
            3. Our battle is not with Hollywood.
   5. Our battle for the mind is against the devil himself, and we cannot outwit, outwork or out-war the devil.
      1. Most people think that the battle for the mind can be won with education.
         1. But if you take someone who doesn’t know the Lord Jesus Christ and educate him, all you have done is to make him more dangerous.
            1. He becomes a clever devil.
      2. Legislation is not the answer for the mind.
         1. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal.
            1. 2 Corinthians 10:4
         2. We cannot control men’s thought processes by laws.
         3. Legislation can only restrain evil; it cannot make people good.
      3. The environment is not the answer.
         1. 2 Corinthians 10:4
            1. Education, legislation and environment are all carnal methods.

Those are things that people can do without the Lord Jesus Christ.

* + - 1. A better environment will not change your thought life.
         1. Adam and Eve got into trouble in the Garden of Eden, and there is no better environment than that.
         2. Genesis 3:1-5

Adam and Eve got into trouble because the devil messed with their minds.

* 1. Our flesh is weak, and we do not have what it takes to overcome and win this battle.
  2. The problem is the battle for the mind.
     1. Proverbs 23:7
     2. Proverbs 4:23
  3. 2 Corinthians 10:4
     1. The word “carnal” means “flesh.”
     2. We live in the flesh, but we don’t war after the flesh.

1. the weapons of our fight (2 corinthians 10:4-5)
   1. 2 Corinthians 10:4
      1. A stronghold is a fortress.
         1. Walls of resistance are going to come down.
      2. What kind of resistance was in the hearts and minds of the Corinthians and, subsequently, are in the hearts and minds of Christians today?
         1. Arrogance, ignorance and despair.
            1. These are all strongholds.
         2. Inside the strongholds are demonic thoughts.
            1. Organized and mobilized, the demonized armies are inside the strongholds.
   2. 2 Corinthians 10:5
      1. “Casting down every high thing.”
         1. The Apostle Paul is not talking here about intelligence but intellectualism, high-minded attitudes, sophistication.
      2. Paul said that he was going to take into captivity every thought.
         1. Thoughts that are being held hostage are going to be set free from habits, fears, obsessions and lusts.
      3. Paul is stating that he is going to war, but not in his own flesh.
         1. 2 Corinthians 10:4-5
   3. What were Paul’s weapons, and what are the weapons of our fight?
      1. The sovereignty of our Commander.
         1. 2 Corinthians 10:7
            1. We belong to Christ, who is our Commander-in-Chief.
         2. The devil has been trying to do all that he can do to win this war.
            1. But when Jesus Christ died on Calvary, He decimated the enemy.
            2. John 12:31
            3. Satan’s kingdom has come down.
         3. Jesus Christ is our sovereign Commander in this battle.
      2. The authority of our commission.
         1. 2 Corinthians 10:8
            1. Authority is the legal right to act on behalf of another.
            2. Jesus, who has won the war, has given to us the power of attorney.

We have authority, given to us by Jesus.

* + - 1. Luke 10:19-20
         1. The word “power” here is literally “authority.”
         2. We are not to rejoice in the fact that we’ve been given this authority.

We are to rejoice that our name is written in Heaven.

It is not the knowledge of the devil that sets us free; it is the knowledge of Jesus that sets us free.

* + - 1. James 4:7
         1. We are to resist the devil, not chase him.
    1. The certainty of our courage.
       1. 2 Corinthians 10:8-11
          1. The Apostle Paul is saying that he has courage because he belongs to Jesus Christ, because Jesus won the battle for him, and because Jesus has given him authority.

And he is going to win this battle.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. As you think, that’s what you’re going to be.
   2. Once you take back the fortress of your mind, then you will need to set a guard on your mind.
      1. Proverbs 4:23
      2. Don’t let sin get into the fortress.
      3. Philippians 4:8
      4. God made us to where we can only think one thing at a time.
         1. If you are thinking what is right, then you can’t be thinking what is wrong.
   3. Guard your mind, and center your mind upon the Lord Jesus.
   4. Don’t let the devil take away your pure-hearted devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ.
      1. Love the Lord Jesus, and there won’t be any room in your mind for the wicked, prideful thoughts that bombard us all.
   5. The way to begin is by giving your heart to Jesus Christ.
   6. 2 Corinthians 4:4
      1. Your mind without Christ is blind to spiritual things.
   7. Let God remove the blindness today, and give your heart to Jesus.
   8. Pray to the Lord Jesus today and ask Him to come into your life.
   9. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16