



## Life Group Study Notes

### Restoring the Foundation: Biblical Thinking

Dr. Rice Brooks - June 11, 2017

#### Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

**Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.**

- What is the last good book you have read? Why did you like it?
- What do you enjoy learning about?
- What was the last public cultural event that you attended?

#### Word (10-15 minutes)

**Sermons can be heard online at [www.bethelworld.org](http://www.bethelworld.org)**

Biblical foundations are critically important. The thinking prevalent in our culture today is far from biblically informed thinking. We must restore the Word of God to its rightful preeminent place in our thoughts and our lives.

Romans 12:1-2 ESV *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

- It is not easy to always walk in the will of God. Consider Jesus who struggled greatly in the garden when he wrestled to submit his will to God's will. He agonized in prayer to the point that his sweat was mixed with blood.

1 Peter 1:13-16 ESV *Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."*

- We must first renew our minds, so that we correct our thinking. Then we will change our conduct as a consequence of changed thinking.

Isaiah 55:6-9 ESV *Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,"*

declares the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

- We must discover and saturate ourselves in God's thoughts, if we wish to walk in God's ways. Returning to the Lord involves embracing God's thoughts.

Romans 8:3-6 ESV *By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 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 set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.*

- In order to walk in God's righteousness we must not only trust in Jesus Christ who died for our sins, but we must also set our minds on the things of the Spirit.

Colossians 3:1-2, 5-10 ESV *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth... Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.*

- The result of setting our minds on Christ and on our heavenly calling should be the transformation of our conduct. Our conduct should reflect the character of God.

The Word of God should inform, challenge, convict, correct, and train us to walk according to the new life Jesus has secured for us through his death and resurrection. The Holy Spirit will cause the Word to work powerfully in our lives.

### **Discussion (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.**

- What challenges do you face in renewing your mind according to God's truth revealed in Scripture?
- Is there anything specific in your thinking or conduct that needs to be addressed by Scripture?
- Who can you help by bringing them into a greater knowledge of God's Word?

### **Prayer (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.**

- Identify something specific in your thinking or conduct that you want God to change, and ask him to do so.
- Ask God for greater insight, understanding, and revelation in God's Word.
- Ask God to work through you to help someone else grow in their biblical thinking.