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SERMON TITLE No More Stinkin' Thinkin'

SERIES Matters of the Mind

DATE 5/2/2021

KEY SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 3; Romans 1; 2 Peter 3

SYNOPSIS Stinkin' Thinkin' is worldly and short-sighted, leading to all kinds of trouble. It's a natural tendency for us all, but we can choose to think with an eternal perspective, which ultimately brings peace.

HIGHLIGHTS What are you grateful for?



☞ No More Stinkin' Thinkin'

Matters of the Mind: Thoughts are Powerful. What we think about has the power to affect our attitudes, behavior, and even the people around us. We are transformed into Christlikeness by renewing our minds - changing the way we think. There's a conflict in our minds between the sinful nature and the spiritual nature. We cannot win the battle in our own strength, so we must connect with God and concentrate on heavenly matters. We can choose our thoughts.

1 Corinthians 3:1-3

Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly — mere infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. 3 You are still worldly.

Stinkin' thinkin' is what Paul is talking about when he says, "You are still worldly." Basically, ☞ **stinkin' thinkin' is opposite of what God thinks.** Here are a few examples.

You think: "It's impossible"

God says: All things are possible (Luke 18:27)

You think: "I can't go on"

God says: My grace is sufficient (2 Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)

You think: "I can't do it"

God says: I can do all things (Philippians 4:13)

You think: "I'm afraid"

God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear (2 Timothy 1:7)

You think: "I'm not smart enough"

God says: I give you wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:30)

You think: "I feel all alone"

God says: I will never leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5)

Here are a few more that are popular today...

- Having lots of possessions is the key to happiness;
- You owe it to yourself to pursue happiness at all costs;
- Climbing to the top of the corporate ladder makes for a successful life;
- Satisfy whatever urges you feel;
- Right and wrong is in the eye of the beholder.

☞ Stinkin' thinkin' is opposite of what God thinks. **At its heart, stinkin' thinkin' is selfish.** It's all about me! Things like this... "What do I get out of this?" "Gotta look out for number one!"



Now, as Christians, we usually know that we shouldn't be thinking like this. However, the Bible gives other signs to indicate that you might have stinkin' thinkin'.

☞ According to 1 Corinthians 3, **jealousy** and **quarreling** are indicators, along with division and taking sides. According to Romans 1, an **ungrateful** attitude and a lukewarm heart for God reveal stinkin' thinkin'. Ephesians 4 talks about lying, **anger, bitterness, slander, malice,** and **unforgiveness**. In fact, it actually says **falsehood**, which indicates more than just telling lies. 2 Peter 3 talks about scoffers and those who are **overly skeptical**. These are all signs of stinkin' thinkin'. Do any of these describe you?

☞ **1. Stinkin' Thinkin' is Foolish** **1 Corinthians 3**

1 Corinthians 3:18-20

Do not deceive yourselves. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a "fool" so that he may become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight.

☞ **Foolish = stupid; blockheaded... we get our word "moron" from this**

Some of the wisdom of this world may seem like it actually makes sense. Things like "rising to the top of the corporate ladder makes you successful." "Many possessions are the key to happiness." But in reality, these are **shortsighted**. How many success stories have you heard, that ultimately lost their family and friends? How many have acquired more and more, but still were so empty they committed suicide? Stinkin' thinkin' is foolish.

☞ Paul says it is "**self-deception**." You only think you are wise! You might fool a few others, but the biggest fool is you! We are all susceptible to self-deception...

Galatians 6:3

If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

James 1:22

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

James 1:26

If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.

1 John 1:8

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Don't be a blockhead! Don't be a moron! Stinkin' thinkin' is foolish and self-deceptive!

☞ **2. Stinkin' Thinkin' is Futile** **Romans 1**



☞ **Futile = pointless.** Like I said before, it is shortsighted. It won't last.

Ephesians 4:17-19 talks about the futility of thinking for some, with darkened understanding and ignorance. This kind of thinking leads to indulgence, impurity, unsatisfied lust, and a hardened heart.

The world thinks it is so smart, but in reality, it is ignorant, lacking true knowledge. Paul calls ☞ it being "**darkened in understanding**" = to have your mind blinded.

Romans 1:21-23

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

☞ **Stinkin' Thinkin' leads to degradation and self-destruction.**

Romans 1:28-32

Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. 29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; 31 they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32 Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

See where it leads? Darkness, depravity, and destruction. Stinkin' thinkin' is foolish and futile! So, stop it. You can choose your thoughts. Choose righteous reasoning instead.

☞ **3. Righteous Reasoning is Future-Focused and Fruitful**

2 Peter 3

Isaiah 1:18

"Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord.

2 Peter 3:1 talks about wholesome thinking. Peter says we should trust God's promises and he ☞ reminds us to not be shortsighted, but to **keep our eyes on eternity and trust God!**

Stinkin' thinkin' is all about the here and now. It's futile because it is shortsighted! It's foolish because it is contrary to the way God thinks! God has a mind for all eternity, not just a few years on earth. Likewise, righteous reasoning keeps eternity in mind. **Righteous reasoning ☞ thinks like God thinks.** And, righteous reasoning is fruitful.

2 Peter 3:11-12



Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.

2 Peter 3:14

So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

☞ See where it leads? **Righteous reasoning yields holiness, godliness, and peace!** Would you rather have self-destruction or would you rather have peace? Degradation or holiness? Deception or truth? Moron or mighty man of God? It's a matter of the mind... how you think.

Proverbs 23:7

For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. NKJV

☞ **It all begins with your way of thinking!** If you're constantly thinking about yourself; if you tend to be ungrateful, unforgiving, angry and bitter, then you've got stinkin' thinkin'. You're on a downward path to destruction! Stop!

If you're thinking about eternity and trusting God's promises in spite of your circumstances, then you've got righteous reasoning! You're on the path to holiness and peace. Keep it up!

Now, I think we all struggle at least occasionally with stinkin' thinkin'. So, Peter has some advice for us all...

2 Peter 3:17-18

Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. 18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

☞ **Be on your guard** = Pay attention to your inner thoughts and do your best to not be influenced by others who have stinkin' thinkin'.

☞ **Grow in grace** = this has a depth of meaning, but here it indicates the idea of **being gracious** to others; doing what is beneficial for them. And, it includes **being grateful** to God. So, just begin counting your blessings.

☞ **Grow in knowledge** = get to **know Jesus more** and more. Study and **know the Word** of God. Focus on the truth. Focus on eternity. **Keep on growing!** You're not done yet! You haven't "arrived." Keep on! Stop your stinkin' thinkin' and work at righteous reasoning!

Let's begin to reverse our stinkin' thinkin'... it's ungrateful. So, what are you grateful for?