

Bringing thoughts into Captivity

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: II Corinthians 10:1-5.
- B. The weapons of spiritual warfare are effective.
- C. Human pride is the trouble with the world.

II. Effects of Christian warfare in this age.

- A. To destroy human pride.
- B. To take every thought captive.
 - 1. This is a mopping up operation.
 - a. Only God can answer specious arguments.
 - b. The Christian's responsibility is to remove any pockets of resistance.
 - 2. We must pursue every loose thought and take it captive as a Christian. One must do this to have permanent victory.
 - 3. Regular Christian fellowship is important for this.
 - a. Many people do not want to be made whole.
 - b. We must learn how to give ourselves to what God wants lest the worst come upon us.
 - 4. This is the practical outworking of the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
 - a. We often indulge in our thought life thinking that we will not participate outwardly.
 - b. Often, this results in outward sin and leaves us impotent.
 - c. Any autonomy is wrong outside of Jesus Christ.
 - 5. This practice consists of repeated and determined application of truth.
 - a. One must govern his thoughts.
 - b. The interior life must be dealt with.
- C. Being ready to punish every disobedience when your obedience is complete.

1. This section grows out of an accusation of weakness in authority.
2. One must learn to obey on one's own.
3. There is an utter inability of punishment to produce obedience—only light produces obedience.

Application questions:

1. How is one to take his or her thoughts captive according to II Corinthians? Explain.

2. If punishment does not produce obedience, what is its purpose?

3. With what thoughts do you struggle? How will you apply this message to gain consistency over your thought life?
