

Think About It

Watch your thoughts; They become words.

Watch your words; They become actions.

Watch your actions; They become habits.

Watch your habits; They become character.

Watch your character; It becomes your destiny.

What starts out as a simple thought may ultimately determine our destiny, even our eternal destiny. The writer of the above statement must have heard or read the words of Solomon found in Proverbs 23:47, "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he."

Our thoughts reflect the person we really are. If we have thoughts which are hateful, they will manifest themselves as words-actions-habits. If, however, we fill our hearts with positive things, can anything but good actions result?

Paul summed it up rightly when he wrote in Philippians 4:8, "Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy; think about such things."

Think about "these things," if we occupy our time on thoughts concerning "these things," it cannot help but result in an eternal destiny with God the Father.

WE ARE WHAT WE THINK!

- by S. Kilpatrick

Is God The Author Of Confusion?

Let us suppose that an evangelist comes to our community to conduct a religious meeting and proceeds as follows:

At the first service, he preaches that salvation is by faith only; but at the next he contends that it is by faith exercised in obedience to the gospel, rather than by faith alone.

At the third service he tells people that they ought to baptize their babies; but at the fourth service, he says that penitent believers are the only scriptural subjects for baptism.

At the fifth service, he preaches once in grace, always in grace, but at the sixth, he tells the people it is possible for them to fall from grace, that some have fallen, and that the Bible tells them how to keep from falling.

At the seventh service he teaches it is all right to have human creeds; but at the eighth he declares that we should take the Bible as our only guide in religion.

No thoughtful person would continue to listen to one preacher preaching like that, but the majority of people are perfectly willing for eight different preachers to preach these conflicting ideas. They say that if one man should preach that way, he would contradict himself and be inconsistent. But what kind of God do they suppose we have if He endorses all these conflicting doctrines and has sent out these preachers to present them?

- by Leslie G. Thomas

Where Will I Be In Another Year?

With the beginning of a calendar year there is always a tendency to look back — and to look forward. Evaluations are made in regards to our financial status, our career pursuits, and other important matters. Surely it is appropriate to evaluate our spiritual welfare.

Ask yourself this simple question: **If I keep doing what I am presently doing, where will I be in another year?**

- Will I be a stronger Christian because I am doing things that will help me grow in Christ (2 Pet. 3:18)? Or, will I be weaker as a result of continuing to ignore the most important things in life?
- Will I be a better Bible student? Will my knowledge of the Word have increased through regular and consistent study? Or, will I still be only wishing that I knew my Bible better?
- Will I have brought any lost soul to the Lord through a committed effort to teach others? Will I have invited folks to visit the assemblies, or encouraged them to have a private Bible study? Or, will I only be giving lip-service to the whole notion of personal work?
- Will I improve in my ability to react to life's provocations in a godly and controlled manner? Will I be displaying more of the "divine nature" (2 Pet. 1:4) as I deal with people and problems? Or, will I still be easily provoked and often fail as trials and temptations are placed before me?
- Will I have broken that "bad habit" that has nagged me for so long? Or, will I still be offering lame excuses and trying to convince myself that "I can't"?
- Will my example be stronger? Will others begin to recognize dependability in me? Will I be constantly striving to do all I can as a disciple (1 Cor. 15:58)? Or, will I be counted as only a "lukewarm" Christian (Rev. 3:15-17)?

If I keep doing what I'm presently doing, where will I be in another year? Or, more to the point, where will I be in eternity? Think!

- by Greg Gwin