



# BRAIN WAVES

Hack-proof  
Your Thoughts

2 Corinthians 10; Matthew 5:21-30

# Foundation

- 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 - “For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.”

# Foundation

- While it is true that we must live in this physical world that is influenced by sin we are called out of that sinful influence.
- The christians in Corinth were struggling with running the church the same way the world ran things
  - abuse of power
  - manipulation
  - worldly definition of success
  - schemes and programs

# Foundation

- Philippians 2:6-8 describes how Jesus fought for our salvation
- When we use sinful tactics we set up strongholds.
- Only through spiritual warfare with spiritual weapons can we destroy all strongholds
  - Truth
  - Righteousness
  - Faith
  - The Word of God

# Foundation

- We are not held prisoner to our thoughts. We have the ability and the responsibility to take our thoughts captive to the obedience of Jesus
- The heart is molded by what we allow into our thoughts
  - All media intake has an effect on the heart
  - Dwelling on sinful things molds our heart to sinfulness
  - When our heart becomes hardened it is much easier to act in sinful ways

# The Law Reinterpreted

- In Matthew 5 Jesus redefines what obedience to the law really means
- Matthew 5:21-30
- The scribes and pharisees taught an “actions” driven theology
  - Do good things, don’t do bad things
- Jesus teaches a relationship driven theology
  - Thoughts and motives matter in relationship

# The Law Reinterpreted

- Do Not Murder
  - “anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment”
  - Are anger and murder the same?
  - Jesus clearly states that it is more than just actions that he is concerned about
  - The attitude and intent of our heart is a serious concern

# The Law Reinterpreted

- “Raca” or “you fool”
  - Raca is an insult of ones intelligence. Similarly we would say stupid, moron, idiot, numbskull, doofus, etc
  - “You fool” is an insult to ones character. An assault on someone’s character is also an assault on the image of God that that person carries.
- Neither of these actions is as serious as murder but they are equally a sin.



# The Law Reinterpreted

- Do Not Commit Adultery
  - “anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery in his heart”
  - We see here again that our thoughts matter.
  - If we were unable to control or master our thoughts than we could not be held responsible. Since Jesus says we are responsible it is obvious that we can make every thought subject to Him.

# The Law Reinterpreted

- Do Not Commit Adultery
  - Again the mental act and the physical act are not the same thing.
  - The mental act does not excuse the physical act
  - Lust destroys relationships
- Philippians 4:8 - Finally, brothers and sisters, 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.

# Get Relationships Right

- Restore relationships with each other
  - Notice the importance of restoration in Matt 5:23-36
  - Jesus tells us to leave our gift at the altar - relationship over religious duty
  - Settle differences quickly
- When we linger on hurt feelings we allow sin to creep into our hearts

# Get Relationships Right

- Your relationship with sin
  - Poke out your eyes and cut off your hands
  - Jesus is using a figure of speech here and not literally commanding us to mutilate ourselves
  - Instead He is challenging our attitude toward sin
  - Sin should be so repulsive to us that we would be willing to sacrifice body parts in order to get free from it

# APPLY IT!

- We do not fight with the same tactics as the world
- Dwelling on sinful things molds our heart (thoughts) to sinfulness
- We are responsible for our thoughts and called to take every thought captive for Christ
- Philippians 4:8
- Relationship over religious duty