

Session #26: “CARNAL MINDS”— *Romans 8:5-8*

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area),

Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email - philtwente@att.net

For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column under “Site Map”

Note: Reference has been made in the following notes to commentaries on Romans by Pastor Chuck Smith, David Hocking and William Newell.

Questions:

- Are today's verses talking about a believer or an unbeliever?
- As a believer, do you still have depravity? Are you still carnal? (see Rom. 7:14)
- Do you have a carnal mind? What do you think about? With what do you fill your thoughts all the day long? Is your mind bent toward humility or towards pride?
- Can you concentrate on the Lord when you are filling your mind with fleshly things? Can you be obedient? Can you live in a place where your mind is not set?
- How much of your waking hours do you think of things of the Lord? How much of the things of self and the world?
- How appropriate is 2 Corinthians 10:1-5 to tonight's study? “*bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.*” Col. 3:1-2 “*Set your mind on things above...*”

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD - Romans 1:18-8:39

- 1A. GIVEN BY THE **PRESENCE** OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - ROMANS 8:1-17
- 1B. As to the **RIGHTEOUSNESS** of the law - 1-4
- 2B. As to the REALITY of the flesh - 5-13

Key phrase from vv. 1 & 4 “*who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit*”

The word “*walk*” is used in its various forms in English 93 times; the Greek word *peripateo* is found 98 times, of which 34 are used by Paul. Paul uses it in Rom. 4:12; 6:4; 8:1,4; 13:13-14; 14:15, also notice Eph. 2:2!; Col. 3:7; JOHN - John 8:12; 12:35; 1 John 1:6-7; 2:6; LUKE - Acts 14:16; PETER - 1 Peter 4:3; 2 Peter 2:10; JUDE - Jude 18 (These are not momentary experiences, but rather a lifestyle, a behavior pattern – your mind is in the gutter- The Christian lifestyle is one walking after the Spirit and not after the flesh.)

1C. The Characteristics of those who walk according to the flesh - 5-8

- 1D. They fill their minds with carnal (fleshly) thoughts - 5
- 2D. They face the future without hope - 6
- 3D. They fight against God and His law - 7
- 4D. They fail to please God in whatever they think, say, and do - 8

Rom 8:5 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, the things of the Spirit.

1D. They fill their minds with carnal (fleshly) thoughts – 5 - cf. (works of the flesh) – Mt. 6:31-32; Gal. 5:19-21; 2 Cor. 10:1-5!; Phil. 2:5; Col. 3:1-4! Where is your mind? What do you spend your time thinking about? Can you effectively serve God when your mind is on fleshly things? Like lusting after a woman? He gave us the Holy Spirit because He knew we had a problem and needed the Spirit. Walking in the Spirit means that the course, the direction, the progress of one's life is directed by the Holy Spirit. It is a continued and progressive motion. Paul gives an easy way for us to determine if we walk in the Spirit or walk in the flesh - to simply see where our mind is set. The mind is the strategic battleground where the flesh and the Spirit fight.

Rom 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

2D. They face the future without hope – 6 - “*to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace*” Where is your carnality leading? The carnal mind leads to death, to no hope, to depression-being upset with everything! How does this happen? Everything

in our mind and in our life is not leading to the Lord! The spirit mind leads to life and peace. If you are going to pursue the material things, you will never be satisfied. But, if you live for the Spirit, you will know life and peace eternally and presently.

"Observe carefully that the flesh is there: he does not walk after it, but it is there. It is there, striving and warring, vexing and grieving, and it will be there till he is taken up into heaven. It is there as an alien and detested force, and **not there so as to have dominion over him. He does not walk after it, nor practically obey it. He does not accept it as his guide, nor allow it to drive him into rebellion.**" (Spurgeon) Is that you?

Rom 8:7 Because *the carnal mind is enmity* (hostile feelings and actions) *against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.*

3D. **They fight against God and His law** –7 - "*the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be*" - cf. **James 4:1-10!** When your mind is filled with carnality and fleshly matters, you are not able to be obedient to God. Friendship with the world is enmity against God. **Humble yourself**--our mind is bent the other way, towards pride, self-centeredness!

Rom 8:8 *So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

4D. **They fail to please God in whatever they think, say, and do** – 8 - "*So then those who are in the flesh cannot please God*" cf. **Col. 1:9-14 "fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work"**;

WHAT PLEASES GOD?

(1) **Praising Him and giving thanks to God** - **Psalms 69:30-31**

(2) **Bearing the infirmities of the weak** - **Romans 15:1-3** - Helping the helpless. Do you get irritated when you get a call for help while you're watching your favorite sports game?

(3) **Proclaiming the true gospel** – **1 Cor. 1:21** – How **often do you share** the gospel with someone?

(4) **Refusing to please men** - **Galatians 1:10** - Are you seeking **to please God** or men?

(5) **Giving to others in time of need** - **Philippians 4:18** - Giving is spiritual; keeping is carnal

(6) **Staying away from sexual sin** - **1 Thess. 4:1-3!!** –How sexual is your thought life? Stay away! "*how you ought to walk...to please God...this is the will of God*"

(7) **Keeping your priorities straight** - **2 Timothy 2:3-4** – Don't be entangled in "errands, pragmatisms of life" – Martha – are you focusing on what is really important?

(8) **Believing that God will reward those who diligently seek Him** - **Hebrews 11:6!** – Are you **diligently seeking Him?** Do you believe He is a rewarder of such?

(9) **Obedying whatever God says** - **1 John 3:22; Col. 3:20** – Example, children, **obey** your parents. Pleasing God **is doing whatever He says.** The carnal mind can't do that!

Can you see yourself in the struggle in the above ways of pleasing God? So be alive in the Spirit and not in or of the flesh!!!

Take the world, but give me Jesus, All its joys are but a name;

But His love abideth ever, Through eternal years the same.

Refrain

Oh, the height and depth of mercy! Oh, the length and breadth of love!

Oh, the fullness of redemption, Pledge of endless life above!

Take the world, but give me Jesus. In His cross my trust shall be,

Till, with clearer, brighter vision, Face to face my Lord I see.