

## RENEW YOUR MIND

(Romans 12:2)

### I. We must think on good things.

- a. Since it is the mind that must be changed, what goes into our minds must be of extreme importance.
- b. Like our physical bodies must be fueled properly to perform well, so must our spiritual minds be also.
- c. I've heard a lot of commercials about the proper fuel to put in mowers, trimmers, and the like.
  - i. The high ethanol gas is not good for them.
  - ii. If you want it to run right, you have to put the right fuel in them.
- d. Philippians 4:8 gives us the proper ingredients that need to be put in our minds.
- e. Those things that are true.
  - i. John 17:17.
  - ii. God's word is the main ingredient that must be put into our minds in order for the mind to be renewed.
  - iii. There's no fake news in the Bible.
- f. Those things that are honest.
  - i. This word is interesting.
  - ii. It is the same word that's translated grave when describing deacons, their wives, and older men.
  - iii. In this case, it has to do with actions that are honorable or venerable.
  - iv. Those actions that are right with God must be focused on and given priority over everything else.
- g. Those things that are just
  - i. This is referencing those things that are conformable to God's will.
  - ii. This word is also translated righteous.
- h. Those things that are pure.
  - i. This has the idea of having no fault.
  - ii. Things that are completely in tune with God's will.
  - iii. Thayer used the word immaculate.
  - iv. It is also the word translated chaste when referring to sexual purity, so we get the idea of how pure it is.
- i. Those things that are lovely.
  - i. This is the only use of this word in the New Testament.
  - ii. It means acceptable or pleasing.
  - iii. If it is pleasing to God, it is acceptable to have in our minds.
- j. Those things are of good report.
  - i. Again, this is the only time this word is used in the New Testament.

- ii. Thayer says it means, “things spoken in a kindly spirit, with good will to others”.
  - k. Things that are of virtue and praise.
    - i. Virtue is a reference to moral excellence.
    - ii. Praise is used to describe what is attributed to God.
    - iii. If there is moral or spiritual good in something, we are to focus on it.
  - l. Now, contrast those things with what is offered to us in the world.
    - i. Is this what we get out of Hollywood?
    - ii. Is this what we get out of books?
    - iii. Is this what we get off of Facebook or other social media platforms?
  - m. We shouldn’t send our minds mixed messages.
- II. **We must add good things.**
  - a. Our minds must be fed with good spiritual thoughts.
  - b. We then must add what are known as the Christian graces about which Peter was inspired to write in 2 Peter 2:5ff.
  - c. The first attribute that must be possessed is faith.
    - i. Hebrews 11:6.
    - ii. Without faith, we can never become a child of God (Mark 16:16).
  - d. When faith is possessed and shown we start adding to it, not leaving it behind and going on, but adding virtue, which we noticed in the previous passage.
    - i. Here it indicates a virtuous way of life.
    - ii. We are constantly striving for moral excellence in our lives, not just thinking on morally excellent things.
  - e. To faith and virtue, we must add knowledge.
    - i. This knowledge is deeper than just a knowledge of God.
    - ii. It is an understanding of how God wants us live and Thayer’s describes it as moral wisdom.
    - iii. This wisdom is seen in the way we live, in a way that is right with God.
    - iv. This is learning how to live and striving to live it all the time.
  - f. To faith, virtue, and knowledge, we add temperance.
    - i. The easy definition of this word is self-control.
    - ii. Listen to the word’s definition that is deeper - the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, especially his sensual appetites.
    - iii. It is putting our desires under our control and not giving in to them because we have an understanding of what God wants and we are striving to give that to Him.
  - g. To faith, virtue, knowledge, and temperance, we add patience.
    - i. This is the idea of endurance.
    - ii. The characteristic of a man who is unswerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings, is what the book definition of the word is.

- iii. It is putting up with the problems of the world because of living for God.
    - h. To faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, and patience, we add godliness.
      - i. This is a striving to be godly.
      - ii. Not possessing deity, but being as God-like as is humanly possible in our attitudes and actions towards others.
    - i. To faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, and godliness, we add brotherly kindness.
      - i. This is simply a love for our brethren.
      - ii. The world does not love us, but we must love each other.
      - iii. We don't beat each other down; we lift each other up.
    - j. To faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, and brotherly kindness, we add charity, or love.
      - i. This is the good, old agape love.
      - ii. We love the brethren, but we also love all men.
      - iii. We are seeking the highest good for everyone, which includes our enemies.
    - k. All these things we are adding are different from the world.
      - i. These are attitudes that must be possessed before they can become actions.
      - ii. Our thinking in these areas has to change from the selfish lifestyle the world teaches.
    - l. Each one of them is to be in our possession for all of our lives and we keep building on each one of them.
- III. We must get rid of bad things and replace them with good things.**
- a. What we want in life is to show others Christ in us.
  - b. To do that, we must put off the old man of sin and his lifestyle.
    - i. Getting rid of the old man is key.
    - ii. We can't keep any of him with us.
    - iii. When surgery is done to remove a cancer or gangrene, all of it is removed so that not a cell is left that is dangerous.
    - iv. The same things is true with the old man of sin.
    - v. None of him can be left if we want to be right with God.
  - c. In order to do that, we must have the new man ready to put on.
    - i. Inspiration knew this would be difficult.
    - ii. Paul wrote about it to the Romans, Ephesians, and Colossians.
    - iii. Romans 12, Ephesians 4:22-6:18, and Colossians 3.
  - d. We are to live lives that are in the likeness of Christ (Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:12).
  - e. The Christian life is lived on a higher plane than that of those around us.
  - f. Our lives are to stand out in contrast with the lives being led by those around us and that is uncomfortable because our world is world of conformity.

- g.** Paul, by inspiration, started out the verse by telling us to not be conformed or molded to this world.
- h.** What Paul wanted for the Colossians is what God wants for all of us (Colossians 1:9-10).

From an outline from an unknown source.