

Living and Effective
Hebrews 4:12-16

October 13, 2024

INVOCATION: Gracious God, we love you and come to you today thankful for the good gifts that you freely give. We thank you for this gathering place and for the saints gathered in it. We thank you for the love that we experience here. Receive our worship this morning as we freely give it. In the name of Christ our Lord, amen.

WELCOME: Be sure to welcome visitors.

HYMN # 564 Make Me a Channel

HYMN # 571 Let Others See Jesus

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MISSIONARY PRAYER CALENDAR

PASTORAL PRAYER:

- Missionaries
 - Katie Barnum: Missionary to UK
 - Mark & Allison: Missionaries
 - Backdoor Ministry: Security Needs
- War in Israel
- Homebound
 - Barbara Moore: Homebound
 - Nina Lemocks: At Rehab
 - Jean Rose Gill:
 - Abe Norfleet: Dunlop House
 - Carol Mayes: In nursing home in Waverly.
 - Claude: Returned home from hospital. Is to have a cardiology consult.
 - Dessie: Had heart cath; has three major blockages.
- Vivian Spiers: Seeing ortho about possible hardware problems.
- Helen Rideout
- Matt: Severe arm injury from work accident. Is healing but is unable to move wrist.
- Judy: Diagnosed with inoperable liver cancer. Returns to doctor on 10/10 to discuss treatment.
- Anna: Angie's daughter. Has embraced Wicca and wants nothing to do with her family.
- Eric Bass (Pastor friend of Barney and Sue): Upcoming Cornea transplant end of October. Shoulder surgery in February.
- Matt's BIL Mike: Terminal cancer, upcoming surgery.
- Candy: Caring for her grandchildren.
- Mack Narron: Cancer is back and more aggressive than before.

- Victims of Hurricane Helene
- Bobby Spiers: In a nursing home on hospice.
- Gerald and Nancy: Travel
- Shiloh Baptist: Needing interim pastor.
- Hurrican Milton
 - Frank (Angie's brother) and family in Florida
 - Dianne and family in Florida
- Linda Thompson: Broken right ankle. Upcoming surgery with very long recovery.
- Salvations and Baptisms

OFFERTORY HYMN # 573 Set My Soul Afire

SERMON FOCUS: My thoughts and intentions must be Christlike.

SERMON FUNCTION: The hearer will examine his own pattern of thoughts and motives.

BACKGROUND: Hebrews was written in about the 60s A. D. The thing that Hebrews does better than any other book of the New Testament is that it ties together OT history and practices with the life of Jesus. We call it an epistle, but it is really written seemingly more as a sermon. Hebrews is written to second-generation Christians, and still has a lot to teach to us today.

SCRIPTURE READING: Hebrews 4:12-16

INTRODUCTION: The time I was pinned under a 700 pound safe vs. the time someone asked me about someone I didn't like.

MESSAGE:

1. I MUST KEEP MY THOUGHTS CHRISTLIKE

- a. (12) About the word: "It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of your heart."
- b. "For from the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual immoralities, thefts, false testimonies, slander. These are the things that defile a person" -- Matthew 15:19-20 (CSB)
- c. How often can we have an obedient body with a rebellious heart?
 - i. "You have heard that it was said to our ancestors, Do not murder, and whoever murders will be subject to judgment. But I tell you, everyone who is angry with his brother or sister will be subject to judgment." -- Matthew 5:21-22 (CSB)
 - ii. "You have heard that it was said, Do not commit adultery. But I tell you, everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart." -- Matthew 5:27-28 (CSB)
 - iii. The point from Jesus' words is a reminder that outward obedience is not enough.
 - iv. It is not only our actions which are subject to judgment, but our very thoughts! Do we begrudgingly obey our Lord physically while still despising His commands in our heart?
- d. This is why Paul told us to "take every thought captive to obey Christ." -- 2 Corinthians 10:5 (CSB)
- e. Entertaining evil thoughts puts your soul (psyche) and spirit (pneuma) at odds with each other.
- f. When we are judged, we will be judged for these disobedient thoughts and the careless words they produced. Therefore, we must deliberately rid ourselves of our evil thoughts and keep our thoughts Christlike. We must also keep our motives Christlike.

2. I MUST KEEP MY MOTIVES CHRISTLIKE

- a. (12) "It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

- b. Have you ever been able to tell that someone has an ulterior motive? (Example) The phone call that Tammy took from the insurance agent.
 - c. Even if the person you are dealing with does not know your intentions or your motives, God does.
 - d. “You ask and don’t receive because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. -- James 4:3 (CSB)
 - e. There are preachers with false motives. “the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely -- Philippians 1:17 (CSB)
 - f. God knows your true motives for everything you do. If what you do is not out of genuine Christian love and concern, God knows.
 - g. We will all face judgment for the times when we did things with false motives. This is why...
3. I MUST RELY UPON CHRIST TO HELP MY THOUGHTS AND MOTIVES
- a. (15) For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin.”
 - b. As the hymn says, “Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer.”
 - c. You are not fooling Him anyway.
 - d. Remember last week that we talked about the importance of confession. It is important to confess our impure thoughts and our false motives to Christ and to someone else. That someone else is only for the purpose of having them pray to strengthen you.
 - e. (16) “Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need.”
 - f. When we confess and repent, the throne of judgment becomes the throne of grace. Let us go to Him and see His grace today.
4. THE GOSPEL IN SIMPLE FORM (adapted from Dr. James Merritt).
- a. Bad News: We are all sinners separated from God.
 - b. Worst News: There is nothing we can do about our sin problem.
 - c. Good News: Christ did for us what we cannot do for ourselves.
 - d. Best News: Salvation and eternal life are a free gift, but you must receive it.

INVITATION HYMN # 294 Have Thine Own Way