

Spc181 – **Mind Control – 2 Cor 10:3-4**
2020 Riot Response

As a **Culture** - As a **Nation** – we are **living** thru
the **most difficult** time I can **remember** - in my **60 years**

The **pieces** & **parts** - of the **National Trauma** of **2020**
are **overwhelming**

FIRST – it was the **Corona-Virus** – which **would've** been
PLENTY to **deal** with all by **itself**

But **then** – there were the **incredible**
daily mounting **death tolls**

& **then** there were the **quarantines**

& **then** – the **closed businesses**
livelihoods destroyed

35 MILLION people **instantly unemployed**

Then – a **STOP** to All **relationship interaction**
outside your own **home**

& we **became isolated**

with **No Church**, **No Worship** together,
No in-person strengthening of one another

then - **Depression**, **Anxiety**,
Hopelessness, & **Desperation** set in

& then – as if on cue - the horrific murderous act
committed by a person in authority

opened the door to a TIDAL WAVE of hatred & violence
that has engulfed our country

Good people, & bad people,
all flooded into the streets

the good people trying to bring good change –

while the criminals were given free rein
to be their criminal worst

Which led (unbelievably)

to previously sane community leaders –calling for
the Defunding & Abolishing of Police Forces

Right IN THE MIDST of the Highest Wave of violence,
crime, & anarchy most of us have ever seen

It's really been – all together
almost TOO MUCH – to PROCESS

AND – as the TRAUMA of the RIOTS
have unfolded before us

it has become clear – there are POWERS
BEHIND the violence in the street

Unseen powers that are inciting
the VIOLENCE & ANARCHY

in order to capitalize on it for their own purposes

**My question is – What is actually HAPPENING
BEHIND all the Video Images –
BEHIND all the Narratives being promoted
BEHIND all the Social Media Influencing**

WHAT IS ACTUALLY HAPPENING TO US ?

& I certainly DON'T know ALL that's happening

**& I'm certainly NOT in a position
to Address MOST of what's happening**

**But – I AM called – to Address ONE THING
that I believe is CLEARLY Happening**

& that is – the Battle for CONTROL of Your MIND

So – Let's Pray - & We'll talk about it

First of all – let me say – very clearly

#1) What happened to George Floyd

is an unbelievable act of aggression
ending in a shocking death – by a person in authority

It is Horrific & a Terrible Abuse of power

there is no excuse for it - & it must be addressed

Does everybody clearly hear me when I say that?

#2) Racial Prejudice DOES exist in our Culture

& it is **WRONG** in **EVERY CASE**

No matter the **Extent** - & **No Matter** **WHICH Color**
is **Prejudiced** against **WHICH Color**

Racial Prejudice (& even **worse** - **Racism**)

are **absolutely wrong**

& must be **continually addressed** & **healed**

As **Christ-Followers** we **MUST SEE** – **ALL People**
as **GOD sees** them – **Which** is **ALL Equal**

ALL Colors - **Created** in **His Image**
& **ALL Colors** - **Created Equal**

& **I know** (right now) **it is**
NOT Politically **Correct**

to **SAY** that **God** **created people**
of **ALL Colors** and **ALL Races** - **EQUAL**

But **that IS** what the **Bible says**

We are **ALL Equally Created**
& **Equally Loved** by God

& **we Genuinely** need to **TREAT One Another**
According to **THAT truth**

But my focus today is **this**

AS Christ-Followers

We must **SEE the World** - & **One Another**

THRU THE LENS of God's Word

& **Hear** those **words** – **Thru the Lens**

Because – Today – I **want** to **challenge** us . . .

WHICH LENS we are **seeing**

both **EVENTS** - & **PEOPLE** - **THRU**

What LENS are you **seeing**

The **Events** of these **Troubled Times** - **THRU**

In **other words**

What LENS is **Controlling What you THINK**

WHO is **Deciding**

What you are **PUTTING INTO your Mind?**

& **WHO** is **Telling you**

how you **should RESPOND?**

& **this** is **critically important** – especially **now** – **Because**

Whatever controls your mind – **controls you**

Whatever gets your Mind - **Gets you**

You will always GO -

to what your **MIND is Set On**

That's why Colossians 3:2 says

1 *Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven (nlt).*

2 *Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. (esv)*

Because What you Set Your MIND ON
Is What your Life will Move toward

So – Let's turn over to 2 Corinthians Ch 10

2 Cor 10:4 calls the things
that control your mind (outside of God)

STRONGHOLDS of Human Reasoning
& FALSE Arguments

& the Bible is clear – this is a KEY PART
of the Spiritual Battle – that we are ALL in

Let's Read 2 Corinthians 10:3–4 (NLT)

3 *We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. (I think we can see around us – how humans wage war) – (But we don't wage war like that)*

4 *We use God's mighty weapons (that have Divine Power), not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments.*

Paul is actually talking about Division & Discord
in the Corinthian Church

But – I think we might be sensing a little
"Division & Discord" in our culture right now

& **Paul says** – We **don't fight** this like **humans do**
(so put your bricks down)

Instead - We **use God's Divine, Mighty Power**
to **TAKE DOWN THE SOURCE**

& the **SOURCE** is the **Strongholds of Human Reasoning**
& the **False Arguments set up Against God**

THAT is what we're **Battling** –
For **CONTROL of our Minds**

& **then** – **Listen to Vs.5** - from the **ESV**

2 Corinthians 10:5 (ESV)

5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

Again – **Paul** is **primarily talking** here about **people**
who are **causing Division & Discord** in the **church**

But – **these vs's** are also **applicable** – **TO US**
AS we **FIGHT** – for **control of our own minds**

We've got to **DESTROY** - **the False Arguments**
in our OWN MINDS

We've got to **DESTROY** - **every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God** - **In our OWN MINDS**

We've got to - **Take every thought captive to obey Christ**
In our OWN MINDS

Again - The *Battle for your Mind*

The Battle for WHO or WHAT controls your mind

Is a KEY PART – A Central Part -
of the Spiritual Battle that you are in

& my question to you today is this:

Are there Forces, Influences, in our lives

That are attempting to Control - What we think?

Attempting to Control - What we - Set our minds on?

Are there Forces & Influences in our culture

that desire to set up STRONGHOLDS
of Human Reasoning - in our Minds today?

I'm here to tell you - THERE ARE

& especially right now – as our country teeters
on the brink of CIVIL WAR

with two Extremely Polarized SIDES

But guys – Please hear me when I tell you

the Actual Battle
that the 2 sides of this Civil War are IN right now

is a Battle – FOR CONTROL OF YOUR MIND

HOW? - - How is that Battle being waged?

It is being waged – NOT subtly
through Psychological Warfare

& here's how it's Happening

What you put into your Mind
BECOMES how you view Events & People – Around you

& right now - the Forces that are Battling
to Control your MIND

Have at their Disposal
ACCESS to SHOVING stuff into your mind

Like they've NEVER HAD BEFORE

& so again – Here is the truth
Backed Up THRU-OUT God's Word

Whatever we Put into our minds
IMPACTS our Minds

& if we put enough of it in there
It will CONTROL our MINDS

& When that Happens

That Control of our Mind, Becomes
a STRONGHOLD of Human Reasoning

& AS Christ-Followers

We need to PROTECT our Minds
from Strongholds of Human Reasoning

again 2 Corinthians 10:4 says (NLT)

4 We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments.

HOW ??

HOW do we DO THAT??

**How do we KNOCK DOWN
& PROTECT Ourselves**

from - the strongholds of human reasoning

Let me give you 3 things

**That we really need to be doing today
to allow GOD - control our minds**

**instead of our Social Media Accounts
controlling our minds**

<p><u>Some</u> of these <u>thoughts</u> come (roughly) <u>from</u> a message <u>Rick Warren</u> gave <u>10 yrs</u> ago – <u>on</u> the <u>Battle for the Mind</u></p>
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1) Don't believe everything you think or feel

Jeremiah 17:9–10(a) (NLT)

9 "The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?

10 But I, the Lord, search all hearts and examine secret motives . . .

We **can't trust** – our **Own Opinions** – or our **Own Feelings**

**We have to have the courage –
to say to God - what the Psalmist says in**

Psalm 139:23–24 (NLT)

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

24 Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

We've **GOT to start**
with **NOT trusting** our own **opinions & feelings**

& **instead beg God**
to **point out anything** in us that **offends him**

& **then beg him**
to **lead us** along the **path** of **everlasting life**

So - # 1 - Don't believe everything you think or feel

Understand that your **OWN Logic** & **Reasoning**
will deceive you

So - Instead – Ask God
to **Reveal** your **own thoughts** to **you**

Ask him – to **show you** anything
OFFENSIVE to **HIM** – **IN your thoughts**

& **Ask** him **daily**
to **lead you** along the **path** of **everlasting life**

2) Guard Your Mind

Psalm 101:3-5 says – in part (from esv & nlt)

3 I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless . . .

(esv)

4 I will reject perverse ideas . . . (nlt)

5 I will not tolerate people who slander their neighbors . . . (nlt).

We **must GUARD** – what **goes into** our **MIND**

The **5th piece of Armor** for the **Spiritual Battle** in **Eph 6:17**
is the **Helmet of Salvation**

& the **inference there (Eph 6) is**

Protect your Mind

with your New Life in Christ – (your **Salvation**)

Which means you **don't just embrace**

Everything you **See** or **Hear**

INSTEAD – **Judge everything** that **goes into** your **mind**

BY your **New Life in Christ**

& then also - Philippians 4:6–7 (NLT) → →

Philippians 4:6–7 (NLT)

6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

Don't Worry – Pray - & Thank God

for **all he's done** for **you**

7 Then (if you will do this) you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

There it is guard your hearts and minds

Don't Worry – Pray - & Thank God

& **His Peace** will **Guard** your **Hearts & Minds**
AS you **live** in **Christ Jesus**

SO # 1) Don't believe everything you think – or feel

2) Guard Your Mind

3) Nourish Your Mind

Proverbs 23:7 (NKJV)

7 For as [a man] thinks in his heart, so is he . . .

Remember the old computer saying

“Garbage IN – Garbage OUT”

Well - if you are packing

the **Social Media Garbage** into your **Mind**

Then - You are **Dying of **Spiritual Starvation****

We've got to Nourish our Minds
with **Solid Spiritual HEALTH FOOD**

Here's the difference

between **TOXIC FOOD** for your **Mind**
& **HEALTH FOOD** for your **Mind**

Romans 8:6 (NLT)

6 So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.

If you Nourish your Mind
on the SIN NATURE . . . it will lead to death

Because the Sin Nature is TOXIC

But – if you Nourish your Mind
on the control of the HOLY SPIRIT

It **will lead** to **LIFE & PEACE**

Because the Holy Spirit is the Life of God – IN YOU

& **then** - just **WRITE Down** – **Phil 4:8** – a **Great Example**
of **how** to **NOURISH your Mind**

& finally - Isaiah 26:3 (NLT) → →

Isaiah 26:3 (NLT)

3 You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!

**If we're going to Nourish our Minds
On Spiritual Health Food**

Then **we've got to Fix Our Thoughts on God
& Trust in him, alone**

& He WILL Keep us in Perfect Peace

Guys – There has always been - a battle for the mind

**What's going on today - is nothing new
It's just gotten more BOLD – & more in your FACE**

The **problem** is - the **Mind-Control**
of the **Media Onslaught** in our **Culture**

Is **NOT** the **Mind-Control** - **GOD calls us to**

HERE is the **Mind Control** - **GOD calls us to**

Romans 12:2 (NLT)

2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

**Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world,
instead - let God transform you into a new person
by changing the way you think.**

**Then you will learn to know God's will for you,
which is good and pleasing and perfect.**

So – **I'm going to pray right now**
as **we get ready for communion**

& if **you've NEVER asked Jesus** Christ

to **Come** into your **life**
& **TRANSFORM you** by **changing** the **way** you **think**

Would you please do that right now

I'm **going to pray**

& **then** – if **you'd like** to **Ask Jesus Christ**
to **come** into **your life**

to **transform your life** – by **changing** the **way** you **think**

than I'm **going to give you** an **opportunity** to **do that**

Let's Pray