

## **Intentional Christian Living - The Believer's Mindset - Coming to the Right**

**Conclusion** a study for the college and career class at Gulf Coast Baptist Church by

Steve Thomas 7/27/25

### **The Believer's Mindset - Introduction**

When dealing with the believer's thought life, there are two words that come up over and over in the Bible. These words give the different sides of the mental battle that the believer should be fighting on a daily basis. They are *Franeo* and *Logizomai*. *Franeo* gives the idea of the framing of the believer's mind. We learn that thoughts do not just have to roll through the mind unchecked, the believer can order thoughts on things that will enable him to be empowered to do the desired will of God. Strong defines this word in this way: "to *exercise* the *mind*, that is, *entertain* or *have* a *sentiment* or *opinion*; by implication to *be* (mentally) *disposed* (more or less earnestly in a certain direction); intensively to *interest oneself* in (with concern or obedience): - set the affection on, (be) care (-ful), (be like-, + be of one, + be of the same, + let this) mind (-ed, regard, savour, think.)" The believer can bring his thoughts into subjection to things that will bring peace, power, and give the focus to accomplish God's Will. Col 3:1-3

Another word that is helpful for the believer's focus is *logizomai*. This word means to come to the same conclusion as, given a specific set of facts (Romans 3:28). It is translated as reckon, count, or impute. Strong defines it as "taking an inventory." Reckoning is often used when God is dealing with sin (Romans 4). The believer has been reckoned to be righteous, having been involved in the crosswork of Christ by God's grace. When the believer comes to this conclusion, he is removed to the third heaven (figuratively) and the Holy Spirit defeats his sin nature at that moment. Romans 6:11; 1 Cor 13:5,11; 2 Cor 10:7,11; Phil 4:8

### **Coming to False Conclusions**

Romans 2:3 is in the middle of Paul's treatise condemning three groups of individuals, finding the moral man, the religious man, and the heathen man to be without excuse before God. He says to the religious man who stands in judgement of others, that he too is in danger of God's judgement. In chapter 3 verse 28 Paul along with his readers come to the correct conclusion that man is justified apart from his good deeds but based on his faith. In Romans 14:14 the weaker brother has come to the conclusion that there is unclean meat, but Paul disagrees. In 1 Cor 13, Paul admits that he came to childish conclusions (13:11) and when he became a man, he put away those conclusions. Earlier in his ministry, Paul reckoned himself to be one of the chiefest of the apostles (2 Cor 11:5).

In Hebrews 11:19 Abraham reckoned something that was true, but that God had not intended for his current situation. Abraham's faith was warranted, even though he did not fully understand what God was doing. This teaches the believer a great lesson. God only asks for faith, not giving all the information in any situation.

### **Love Comes to a Beneficial Conclusion**

In Cor 13, Paul describes Agape love. The phrase "thinketh no evil" uses this word. It gives more than a sense of innocence and naivete. It gives the benefit of the doubt when suspicions arise. Agape love does not assume or come to the conclusion that someone's actions

or motives are evil. It takes all the available information and comes to the best possible conclusion. As we will see in the next scripture, this takes elimination of some negative thinking.

Philippians 4:8 gives the believer a list of things to focus on instead of the negative things. This is after the believer has been the recipient of peace after communicating with the Father in 4 ways. The believer often brings his burdens to God, but then picks them back up after he communicates. Paul teaches the believer to focus on a list of beneficial things. Those things that are true. The believer is given things that are true in scripture, he should focus on these things. Also he should focus on those things that are honest or grave, as opposed to being foolish or ridiculous. Also he should focus on those things that are just, instead of the unrighteousness that exists in this world. This filtering allows the believer to remain at peace, instead of falling back into anxiety. Those things that are clear or pure are next on the list. Often there is uncertainty in the believer's life. The temptation is to focus on this uncertainty, but the believer should not focus on what is uncertain but what is clear. The next on the list are those things that are lovely, or pleasing. There are a lot of things in this world that are troubling, but the believer is not to focus on these things. Paul mentions things of good report and virtuous next. These words are reflective of reputable and manly. Not shady or weak things. The last on the list is those things that are praiseworthy or laudable. It is easy to focus on those things that are wrong with a situation, instead of those things that are praiseworthy. This list is a strong filter for the believer's thinking. It takes an intentional focus. But it will yield a rich reward.

### **Paul defends his ministry**

In 2 Cor 10, Paul uses the term in verses 7 and 11 to keep the Corinthians from comparing themselves among themselves. He uses the term *logizomai* to seek to guide the Corinthians to come to the conclusion that God comes to based on information that is true and worthy of their focus. The Christian does not find his worth in measuring himself against other believers, but bases his worth on what God has distributed to us (vs 13). This keeps the focus on Christ and His gifts instead on what the believer has achieved.

### **Intentional Thinking**

The use of these two terms *franeo* and *logizomai* keeps the believer in a state of intentional behavior and thinking. Stream of consciousness allows the enemies to establish strongholds that will keep us from being fruitful believers.

### **Conclusion**

The other topics in our list of core principles are loving the brethren (working on that in the Sunday Morning service), why we are dispensational (just worked on those on Wednesday nights), a Big God mentality or working from faith instead of fear, and how the Body of Christ functions.