

# At Home, Thinking

TRANSFORMED  
by the  
RENEWING  
of your  
MIND

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# At Home, Thinking

**L**OVE THE LORD your God with all your mind. So commanded the Lord Jesus Christ. Granted, He also commanded us to love Him with all of our heart, soul, and strength as well. But loving Him with our minds is something the 21<sup>st</sup> century American Church is not doing very well.

I found inspiration for the title of this article from John Adams, second President of the United States. Known for his prolific correspondence with wife Abigail, and as a life-long diarist, one of Adams' early journal entries included only the phrase "At home, thinking."

I am a thinker. I probably think too much. But often, because of God's great mercy and kindness, my thinking, coupled with prayer, study, and dialog with others, leads to a better understanding of God and His ways.

Why is thinking about the things of God so important? Consider these Scripture references:

- The Psalmist declared that meditating upon God's law night and day is a sign of God's blessing (Psalm 1:2).
- The writer of Proverbs admonished us to get understanding (Proverbs 4:5).
- The Apostle Paul instructed us to think on things which are virtuous, praiseworthy, true, honest, pure, lovely, and of good report (Philippians 4:8).

Thinking upon God's Word and His ways helps bring together the many disjointed pieces of our understanding. G.K. Chesterton stands as one of the greatest thinkers and writers of the 20th century. He once observed that our walk through life is much like stumbling upon a shipwreck. Strewn about in front of us, in chaos and disarray, are both worthless debris and precious treasure. Hidden somewhere in the mess is a

story. Examining the pieces one by one, we can find some meaning. But only when the pieces are re-assembled, reconstructing the original, do they reveal the whole, the plan, and the purpose that once existed.

Life is much like this, with understanding coming to us in tiny bits and pieces. It is up to us, with the aid of God's Word and the Holy Spirit, to assemble the many seemingly disconnected parts, and begin to reconstruct them into a cohesive whole. When we do, we experience the proverbial "aha" each time life comes more clearly into focus.

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Would you attempt to build a house without a set of plans? Would you begin ordering materials for a construction project without a detailed list of the items needed? Of course not. And yet many of us live life just this way.

We seem to gain our knowledge of God haphazardly, without a systematic approach, and often times incorrectly. If we are extremely fortunate, life in Christ is a series of revelations, epiphanies, and quickenings of understanding. But if we are inattentive, self-centered, and unenergetic in our pursuit of God, we may end up at the end of our days with the components of our lives like Chesterton's proverbial shipwreck—still strewn about.

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Are you a critical thinker? Do you regularly reflect and engage in internal cogitation? What kind of matrix or filter do you have at the fount of your thinking process?

As God's children, we need to become critical thinkers, learning to sift through ideas, comparing them to the truths of Scripture, and finalizing our own, firm set of convictions.

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*"Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true."*

(Acts 17:11 NIV)

In this passage, Luke lauds the Bereans. They did not blindly accept the words of Paul, but rather poured over the Holy Scriptures to determine if Paul's teachings were

based in the truth. The Bereans set the standard for all Christians who have followed. They believed the Holy Scriptures to be the authoritative Word of God, the filter through which all ideas are to be sorted.

May we, likewise, search the Scriptures. For in them we will find life, and God's nourishment for our minds.