

Overcoming Subjective Thinking

- I. Introduction
 - a. Have you ever heard someone start a sentence along the lines of, "I know the Bible says that, but..." Or "the Bible may say that but hasn't been my experience."
 - i. This would be considered subjective thinking.
 - b. Opinions shape our subjective thinking. More specifically, personal experiences and preferences shape that thinking.
 - i. Prov. 14:12 – There is a way that seems right to a man. But its end is the way of death.
- II. Saul's Subjective Thinking
 - a. Saul takes the clear commands of God and rejects them (1 Sam. 15:1-3)
 - i. "Why would I destroy this beneficial assets?"
 - b. Saul thought that doing one command was the same as doing them all (15:13-14, 18-20)
 - i. Vs. 9 – Saul spared what he thought was valuable and destroyed what he thought was worthless.
 - c. Subjective thinkers only do what is asked of them until they disagree with it.
 - i. "I am doing some of God asked. Therefore, I am in harmony and active obedience to God." Not so!
- III. Naaman's Subjective Thinking
 - a. Naaman has certain expectations of what will happen because of who he is (2 Kgs. 5:1, 9-10)
 - b. Naaman is angry because his expectations aren't met (vs. 11-12)
 - i. "This wasn't how it was supposed to happen!"
 - c. Naaman is presented with reason (vs. 13)

- i. If something 'great' had been asked of Naaman, he would've done it without question.
 - d. We all have our own personal bias and it is impossible to erase it. But we must not let those things dominate our thinking when it comes to Scripture.
- IV. Peter's Objective Thinking
 - a. Peter is very experienced when it comes to fishing (Luke 5:1-5)
 - i. Peter is tired and ready to go home. They worked hard all night and have nothing to show for it.
 - b. Despite his experience, He puts that to the side because of the One who spoke to him... Jesus Christ, the Lord.
 - i. "I am expert in this area. I know the best way to approach this situation." Be careful...
- V. Subjective Minds in Religious Thinking
 - a. Those who want God but only on their terms. (Ex: Cafeteria religion)
 - i. You might be quick to eat the fried chicken but leave the broccoli behind. You might be quick to accept forgiveness but ignore repentance.
 - b. We must continually evaluate who we are seeking to please: Ourselves or God?
 - c. "You won't find this in the Bible because the Holy Spirit told me directly."
 - i. How can we distinguish between the Holy Spirit and subjective thinking?
 - ii. What can be confident in is the Word of God given by the Holy Spirit.
- VI. Objectiveness of the Holy Spirit
 - a. Men moved by the Holy Spirit have brought us the Word of God (Jn. 14:25-26;16:12-13)

- i. Be thankful the Lord did not leave it up to the memory of men to remember the teachings of Jesus!
 - ii. The Spirit would further guide the apostles into all truth.
- b. We follow the "apostles' doctrine." (Acts 2:42; Eph. 3:3-5)
 - i. If all those who were added to the Lord on Pentecost received separate instruction from the Holy Spirit, why would they need to follow the apostles teaching?
 - ii. How can we get the knowledge Paul received from the Spirit?
Fortunately for us, Paul wrote it down!
- c. One who thinks they can filter the thoughts of God through their own mind might sooner try to drink the waters of Niagara Falls through a drinking straw!