

6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

❑ What different types of activities and entertainment can these 8 standards be applied to?

❑ Would using these standard change any of **your** current activities or entertainment choices? HOW?

We as believers must protect and control the thoughts of our minds to maintain our salvation. The enemy works overtime to make available as much temptation, lust and desire as he possible can. It is up to the believer to choose what he or she will leave into their minds. In the modern information age we have available to us books, movies, shows, virtual reality delivered for our private viewing anywhere and at anytime. It is up to the believer to know what is entertainment and what is sin dressed up to entertain and enslave. The mind is the gateway of our salvation. Jesus asked, *“What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?”*⁶ That is still the question. Today it might be asked, “What good is it for a man to put no limits on his enjoyment and lose his soul to ‘eternal punishment?’ Proverbs is still true today, *“As a man thinks so he is...”*³

1. William Perkins, *Works* (Published 1603), page 906
2. Rick Steadman, *Praying the Armor of God*, Harvest House Publishers, 2015, page 49
3. Proverbs 23.7 KJV
4. James Allen, *As a Man Thinketh*, page 3 published 1902
5. 2 Corinthians 4.4
6. Matthew 8.36



THE DEVIL'S WORKSHOP

In the late 1500's the Puritan minister William Perkins wrote, *“The idle bodie and the idle braine is the shoppe of the deuill.”* It is now been shortened to “An idle brain is the devil's workshop.”¹

Today, “the devil's workshop” has entered the popular culture and is used as the title for novels, movies, a dangerous neighborhood in Batman's Gotham City, a sound studio in Minnesota, a jewelry store in Canada, an online knife-makers club, and a tobacco shop in California. “The devil's workshop,” for some, now seems to be cool.²

A soldier wears a helmet to protect their head, more importantly the brain inside of the head. The Bible is clear that *“as he thinks within himself, so he is.”*³ A man is literally what he thinks, his character being the complete sum of all his thoughts.⁴ If we are going to win the battle we must protect our minds and we must change how others think about evil. The helmet is to protect us from evil thoughts but what does that mean in our current information age?

The enemy knows the importance of thoughts and controlling what people think. *“The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”*⁵ If you want to keep people on your side then don't let them know the truth about what is happening. The enemy has dressed sin up to be desirable or a pleasure to be sought. He has used every conceivable method available to humanity to saturate the world with sinful desires. It is sinful if you know the God of creation and

it can be seen as desirable if you reject God's directions for your life.

GARBAGE IN = GARBAGE OUT

The first I ever heard about computers was from my father. This was when computers filled whole city blocks and no average person had actually seen one up close. My father taught me a phrase, Garbage in = Garbage out. If you programmed a computer correctly it worked correctly, but if you programmed it incorrectly it did not work correctly. What you feed a computer is what it give back. That is also true for the human mind. If you fill it with garbage or sin you cannot expect it to produce anything except more garbage and sin. The brain is the original computer designed by God.

The key is to put in the right information into your brain if you want to get the right information out. This is where the battle for the mind and souls is won or lost.

- ❑ Read Psalm 139.2 *You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.*
- ❑ What do learn about how much God knows about us?

- ❑ Read Psalm 139.23-24 *Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*
- ❑ What standard does the believer use to determine if they are doing and thinking the right way?

- ❑ Read 2 Corinthians 10.2 *"I beg you that when I come I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward some people who think that we live by the standards of this world."*

- ❑ Read Hebrews 9.28 *"so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him."*
- ❑ When is a person's salvation complete? Explain your answer.

CHOOSING OUR THOUGHTS

- ❑ Read Ephesian 4.19 *"Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more."*
- ❑ How does the lack of control of what a person puts into their minds lead to a point of not using their minds and just following their passions?

- ❑ Read Philippians 4.8 Speaking to the believers at Philippi Paul wrote, *"Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."*
- ❑ What are the 8 qualities the believer should use to determine the value of what goes into their minds? How does each one help the believer make correct choices?
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____

- ❑ Read Romans 6.23 *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*
- ❑ What is the difference in why or how we are punished for sin to how we receive eternal life?

- ❑ Read 1 Thessalonians 5.8 *"God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ."*
- ❑ How did God provide for us to avoid the punishment?

- ❑ Why would this be called salvation?

- ❑ Read Hebrews 5.8-9 *"Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him..."*
- ❑ What is the key to salvation? What does this require of the believer everyday?

- ❑ How were some in the church at Corinth getting around living lives of holiness and within Biblical standards?

- ❑ Is this happening in today's churches? Give some examples.

- ❑ Read Isaiah 59.7 *"Their feet run to evil, and they rush to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity, desolation and destruction are in their highways."*
- ❑ How does the way a person thinks effect the way they live their lives?

- ❑ Read Hebrews 4.12 *Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."*
- ❑ What do we learn about the Word of God here?

- ❑ Why is this important for all believers to know as they study the Word of God?

- ❑ Why would a believer or a church ignoring the Word of God be a dangerous thing to do?

WHY OUR THOUGHTS MATTER

- ❑ Modern teachers and preachers want us to believe that everyone and anyone will get into heaven and that salvation is universal or applies to a person just because they were born. This is not true.
- ❑ Read Revelation 21.27 *"Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life."*
- ❑ The it in the verse is heaven. What limitations are put on an individual who will be able to get into heaven?

- ❑ Read Matthew 25.46 Jesus was speaking about those who did not do God's will or live righteous lives, *"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."*
- ❑ What are the two alternatives for the afterlife?

- ❑ If God just left everyone into heaven what would that mean as far as the Word of God (Bible) goes?

- ❑ What would this mean in reference to Go's honesty and forthrightness?

FIRST THINGS FIRST

- ❑ It is called a helmet of SALVATION for a reason. It is our very salvation or eternal being that is being protected.
- ❑ Read John 14.6 *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*
- ❑ What are the positive implications of this statement by Jesus?

- ❑ What are the negative implications of this statement by Jesus?

- ❑ Read Romans 1.16 *"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes..."*
- ❑ What is the key to receiving this gift of salvation?