Temptation …. Winning the Battle
Romans 6:6-7; James 1:26; Matthew 6:22; Ephesians 4:17-19; Ephesians 2:10
Part II
Sermon Outline

1. The Flesh…The Source of the Conflict (Romans 6:19):

1. The flesh is unable to produce the results that we need in order to walk righteous before God. The flesh has all the residue of the fallen nature.
2. Agents of the body - the eye (Matthew 6:22-23), the tongue (James 3:4-9), the mind (Ephesians 4:17; James 3:13-17).
3. We must not follow the desire of the flesh to moral impurity.
4. When we present the members of our body to purposefully violate God’s Word we arrogantly rebel against God and reject Him.
5. We need to totally surrender the members of our bodies to God’s divine standards.
6. When we present our surrendered bodies for God’s use, it consecrates us to God.

1. The Mind …. It Empowers Us or Destroys Us (Ephesians 4:17-19; 1:16-19; Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 10:3-6):

1. **How Could the Mind Be Destructive?**

1. Paul had to continuously and seriously declare what he had personal knowledge of.
2. What Paul was about to say was said under the authority and power of Christ so that it dominated the everyday life of a believer.
3. We must no longer continuously conduct our everyday lives in the same manner as those who do not know Christ.
4. We must not live purposeless and meaningless lives because we focus on information that is false.
5. If we live meaninglessly, we will be in a set state of not be able to move around the obstacles of life. So we will continuously live a life filled with trouble and anxiety.
6. A darkened understanding leads the believer to not reason correctly Biblically. There is no anointed insight into the scriptures that leads to true knowledge which in turns affects how the believer lives.
7. The believer is alienated (not living like a citizen; Ephesians 2:19) from the privilege of experiencing the highest quality of life that God has to offer. This life already exists inside the believer (Ephesians 4:16-19).
8. Because darkness leads to a life excluded from the influence of the Holy Spirit, the believer continuously lives the state of an unsaved person (Acts 17:30; Eph. 4:18, v.17). This leads to the need of repentance.
9. This is because their entire inner life, including their mental and emotional state, is dull of spiritual perception because it is in a state of being unwilling to learn. This causes the believer to become stubborn.
10. The having become callous – This is a believer whose life is excluded from the life of God, who has become ignorant and whose heart loses the capacity to feel shame for living a life outside the will of God and does not care if this brings them no honor.

11. These carnal believers put themselves in a position to ‘an insolent disregard for decency’ such as an uncontrolled tongue, sexual debauchery and much evil and pervasive behavior (1 Corinthians 3:1).

12. The carnal believers, who just because of a decision to live in the futility of their minds engage in evil doctrine, sexual impurity and every kind of filthy behavior.

2. How Could the Mind Be Spiritually Productive?

   1. We need not adopt behavioral patterns that are shaped by what unbelievers like to do.
   2. World – A place influenced by evil and the evil one (1 John 5:19).
   3. Transformed - This is to experience complete inner most change. This is where the transformation on the inside (new creation; 2 Corinthians 5:17) becomes so powerful that the flesh no longer directs how the believer lives each day.
   4. Daily surrendering to the Holy Spirit convicts us to change. This is when the Holy Spirit convicts the believer of sin (John 16:7-11), remind them of scripture (John 14:26) or illuminate the Word so that the believer understands and knows how to live (2 Peter 1:3-11). The believer as a result of this transformation walks in the light as Christ is in the light (1 John 1:5-7).
   5. Renewing my mind means to renovate my disposition, manner of thought or attitude. This is the where the believer no longer lives by the futility of their mind. Whatever contradicts the Word of God they are quick to change and think different.
   6. When the Christian character of the person is steady in the midst of trials and the issues of day to day life, the believer demonstrates that what took place on the inside is indeed real (Philippians 1:9-11; James 3:17).
   7. The will of God is seen as personally beneficial.
   8. The will of God leads to worship that pleases God (Hebr. 12:28).
   9. Everything God does is for this purpose (Phil. 2:12-13).

1. A Renewed Mind Leads to Spiritual Power (Ephesians 1:16-18; Proverbs 24:3-5):

   1. God, who is the author of our spiritual birth, guides us to embrace all that is excellent in His divine nature.
   2. God permanently put in place wisdom, knowledge and the unveiling of things to come.
      
      1. Spirit of wisdom – To be influenced by the Holy Spirit in the application of God’s Word so that we live out the principles of God based on Spirit’s ability (James 1:5-9; 3:15-18).
      2. Revelation – This takes place when the Holy Spirit reveals the meaning of God’s prophetic Word.
      3. Knowledge – This is when we develop a full knowledge of Christ so that we experience Him for who He is.
3. This is when we move from a knowledge of Christ to experiencing Christ.
4. Being enlightened means not just know Christ but to master living completely influenced and controlled by the Spirit (Ephesians 5:15-18; Galatians 2:20; Hebrews 6:4-5).
5. When our salvation leads to a full experience of who God is we have a complete confident expectation of all that God says He will do.
6. God’s generosity of lavishing His grace displays His excellent compassionate nature.
7. This only takes place for those believers who are consecrated and devoted to God. These are believers who have separated themselves from earthly pleasures and are totally focused on developing the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

1. The Tongue…. Controlled it Preserves our Lives (James 1:26; 3:5-9; Proverbs 18:21; James 1:25):

1. If we are constantly having opinion that we are righteous, because we are careful to do the divinely prescribed duties of outward service, (our devotion based on our religious beliefs), then there are some things we must continuously practice.
2. We have to make it a habit to hold what we say in check (like tying down the tongue or like when someone bridles a horse and the tongue just keeps moving). This is as if we are not willing to let our conversation be seasoned with salt (Colossians 4:6) with no lying (Ephesians 4:25), unwholesome (Ephesians 4:29) or filthiness (Ephesians 5:4) proceeding from our months.
3. If we say we are righteous but do not bridle our tongue, then we mislead ourselves in regard to the truth. The deception encompasses all of our desires and mental capacities thus affecting our entire life. We must lead the ‘inner springs of our personal life.’
4. Our outward devotion to religious standards does not produce inner change so our religious practices are empty in the eyes of God. It is therefore unprofitable and useless. ‘It is like building houses on sand, chasing the wind, shooting at stars, pursuing one’s own shadow.’
5. When we habitually do what God instructs us to do, we are counteracting being religious. This is when God causes us to be completely controlled by the Holy Spirit. This provides us favor from God that can lead to happiness (Ephesians 5:15-18).