

Colossians 2:8

- "Beware lest anyone take you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ"

Beating Temptation with BATS: The Biblical Alternative Thinking Skills

Lesson 3:
Soundness & Selfishness

Thinking

- Psalm 1:1-2 (YLT)
 - 1 O the happiness of that one, who Hath not walked in the counsel of the wicked. And in the way of sinners hath not stood, And in the seat of scorers hath not sat;
 - 2 But—in the law of Jehovah is his delight, And in His law he doth meditate by day and by night:
- The wise believer who desires to be blessed of God will seek to think the Scriptures.

Thinking

- The relationship of God's word to the renewed mind is so central that it can be stated simply: consistent and detailed Bible study is foundational to sustained growth in Christian discernment.
- John R. W. Stott defines a "Christian mind" as "a mind which has firmly grasped the basic presuppositions of Scripture and is thoroughly informed with biblical truth."

Thinking

- "Guard what has been committed to your trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings and contradictions by what is falsely called knowledge—by professing it, some have strayed concerning doctrine" (I Timothy 6:20,21).

Thinking

- Logic and reason are far from being incompatible with biblical Christianity.
- Rather, they are essential.
- Without them it is impossible to deduce anything from the true propositions of the 66 books of Scripture, the Christian's final authority.

Thinking & Logic

- Logic is the science of the relations between *propositions*.
- Logic can tell us what can be inferred from a given proposition, but it cannot tell us whether the given proposition is true in the first place.

Thinking & Logic

- All philosophical systems rely on logical deductions from starting assumptions—*axioms*—which, by definition, cannot be proven from prior assumption.
- For our axioms, it is rational to accept the propositions revealed by the infallible God in the 66 books of the Bible.
- *Loving God with all your mind: logic and creation by Jonathan D. Sarfat*

Thinking & Logic

- Many Scriptural passages show that Christians are not supposed to check their brains at the church door, but to use their God-given minds in subjection to God's Word, e.g. Isaiah 1:18
- 18 'Come now, let us reason together,' says the Lord. 'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.'

Thinking & Logic

- Romans 12:2
- 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Thinking & Logic

- 1 Corinthians 2:16
- 16 'For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?' But we have the mind [noema - thinking] of Christ.

Thinking & Repentance

- *“From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Matthew 4:17*
- *“John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.” Mark 1:4*

Thinking & Repentance

- Repent:
 - Metanoeo: change your thinking.
 - Metamellomai: change your emotion.
- metanoeo and the Hebrew nacham are transitive verbs, both must have a subject and object either stated or implied.
- Therefore, the subject changes his mind about the object.

Thinking & Repentance

- Repent:
- In Salvation the sinner is the subject and Christ is the object.
- After salvation, the believer is the subject and Bible Doctrine is the object.
- All salvation verses refer to the object as Christ, not sins.

Thinking & Repentance

- Metanoeo is used with believer's in the following verses:
- Heb.6:1 -- Human good; dead works.
- Rev.2:5,16,22; 3:19; 2Cor.12:20 -- Reversion recovery.
- 2Cor.12:21 -- Recovery from carnality.
- The word metamellomai is mistranslated "repent", but means "regret", Mt.21:29,32; 27:3; 2Cor.7:8; Heb.7:21; Rom.11:29.
- Regretting has NO spiritual benefits for the believer or unbeliever.

Thinking & Faith

- 1 Peter 3:15
- 15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.
- The Greek word translated 'answer' in 1 Peter 3:15 is *απολογία* (*apologia*).
- This term is derived from the Greek meaning 'out of logic/reason', and refers to a reasoned defense that would be given in a court of law.

Thinking & Faith

- The classic example is Plato's **Apology**, Socrates' defense against the charges of atheism and corrupting the youth.
- The word also appears in the negative in Rom. 1:20: unbelievers are *anapologetos* (*anapologetos*) (without excuse / defense / apology) for rejecting the revelation of God in creation.
- The word for 'reason' above is *logos* (*logos*), in this context meaning evidence that provides rational justification for one's belief.

Thinking

- Paul elaborated on this in 2 Corinthians 10:4–5:
- 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.
- 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.
- The World, The Flesh and The Devil are the anti-God forces, so we must make great efforts to demolish their thought invasions.

Thinking & Reasoned Arguments

- In logic, an argument is defined as a sequence of statements comprising premises that are claimed to support a conclusion.
- Scripture teaches that Christians are to argue in this sense.
- This is not the same as being argumentative, or arguing just for the sake of arguing.

Thinking & Reasoned Arguments

- Arguments can be either deductive or inductive.
- Deductive reasoning is reasoning from the general to the particular.
- Inductive arguments reason from a finite set of examples to a general rule.
- A syllogism is a common type of deductive argument with two premises and a conclusion.

Thinking & Reasoned Arguments

- *Validity*
- A valid argument is one where it is impossible for the premises to be true and the conclusion false, i.e. the conclusion follows from the premises.
- Validity does not depend on the truth of the premises, but on the form of the argument.

Thinking & Reasoned Arguments

- Logical Fallacies
- A lack of knowledge of Fallacious reasoning keeps us from knowing the difference between logic and truth making us vulnerable to manipulation by those skilled in the art of logical rhetoric [the ISNA].

Thinking & Reasoned Arguments

- *Formal Fallacies (Deductive Fallacies)*
- Philosophers distinguish between two types of argument: deductive and inductive.
- For each type of argument, there is a different understanding of what counts as a fallacy.

Thinking & Reasoned Arguments

- Deductive arguments are supposed to be watertight.
- For a deductive argument to be a good one (to be “valid”) it must be absolutely impossible for both its premises to be true and its conclusion to be false.
- With a good deductive argument, that simply cannot happen; the truth of the premises entails the truth of the conclusion.

Thinking & Reasoned Arguments

- The classic example of a deductively valid argument is:
 - (1) All men are mortal.
 - (2) Socrates is a man.
 - Therefore:
 - (3) Socrates is mortal.
- It is simply not possible that both (1) and (2) are true and (3) is false, so this argument is deductively valid.

Thinking & Reasoned Arguments

- One example of a valid argument with true premises is:
 - 1) All whales have backbones;
 - 2) Moby Dick is a whale;
 - ∴ Moby Dick has a backbone.
- An example of a valid argument with a false premise and false conclusion is:
 - 1) All dogs are reptiles;
 - 2) All reptiles have scales;
 - ∴ All dogs have scales.

Thinking

- An invalid argument with a true premise and true conclusion is:
- The sun is larger than the earth;
∴ polytheism contradicts the Bible.
- This is invalid because the conclusion contains terms not contained in the premise.

Thinking & Reasoned Arguments

- Because all inductive arguments are technically invalid, different terminology is needed to distinguish good and bad inductive arguments than is used to distinguish good and bad deductive arguments (every inductive argument would be given the bad label: “invalid”).

Thinking & Reasoned Arguments

- The terms most often used to distinguish good and bad inductive arguments are “strong” and “weak”.
- An example of a strong inductive argument would be:
 - (1) Every day to date the law of gravity has held.
Therefore:
 - (2) The law of gravity will hold tomorrow.

Thinking & Reasoned Arguments

- So, in Deductive Reasoning we have Valid and Invalid Arguments in which the Premises support the Conclusion or they do not.
- And in Inductive Reasoning we have Strong and Weak Arguments, in which they make the Conclusion more likely or not.
- But, neither tell us if the Argument is true.

Thinking: Sound and Unsound

- All logic aside, the key is the soundness of the argument.
- Logic is a means of demonstrating the validity of a proposition or axiom, but as we have seen a logical argument can be made for falsehood, as well as truth.
- So, now, our focus will shift to the Soundness of thinking.
- IOW, The truth versus the lie.

Thinking: Sound and Unsound

- The ultimate source of soundness is the Bible--the Word of God (Heb. 1 4:12), the mind of Christ (1 Cor 2:16), the voice of the Spirit (Heb. 3:7).
- Through the Bible alone come the instruction, training, strategy, and tactics to live the spiritual life of faith.

Thinking: Sound and Unsound

- 1 Timothy 1:10 (YLT)
10 whoremongers, sodomites, men-stealers, liars, perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that to sound doctrine is adverse,
- 2 Timothy 4:3 (YLT)
3 for there shall be a season when the sound teaching they will not suffer, but according to their own desires to themselves they shall heap up teachers—itching in the hearing,

Thinking: Sound and Unsound

- Titus 1:9 (YLT)
9 holding—according to the teaching—to the steadfast word, that he may be able also to exhort in the sound teaching, and the gainsayers to convict;
- Titus 2:1 (YLT)
1 And thou—be speaking what doth become the sound teaching;

Thinking & Soundness

- A sound argument is a valid argument with true premises.
- The conclusion of a sound argument must be true.
- For example:
 - 1) I am a sinner.
 - 2) Jesus died for sinners.
 - ∴ Jesus died for me.

Thinking: Sound and Unsound

- In John 17 Jesus prays that the Father will sanctify all believers in the truth.
- Sanctification is the process by which we are conformed to the image of Christ.
- But where will we find truth?
- Jesus Himself tells us: "*Thy word is truth*" (*John 17:17*).

Thinking: Sound and Unsound

- *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. (2 Tim. 3:16-17)*

Thinking: Sound and Unsound

- The Greek word translated “inspired by God” is *theopneustos*, from *theos*, God, and *pneuma*, breath. “All Scripture is God-breathed”.
- Ancient rabbis taught that the Spirit of God rested on the Old Testament prophets and spoke through them, using them as human mouths to speak in God's place.

Thinking: Sound and Unsound

- We speak of ‘inspiration’ as that power by which God the Holy Spirit supervised and superintended the authors of Scripture so that they recorded accurately and exactly what God had to say through them.
- God's inspiration extended to the very words--and all the words--of the original manuscripts written by those through whom God chose to speak.

Thinking: Sound and Unsound

- When God chose a person through whom to communicate His Word, He used that person's perspective, vocabulary, and experience as His channel.
- This is how 66 books written by more than 40 different authors spanning 1,500 years can be so different from each other in style and yet be absolutely non-contradictory, and absolutely consistent in message.

Thinking: Sound and Unsound

- The Bible declares itself to be the absolute, final, accurate, authoritative Word of God.
- It was given by God for the profit of man.
- When Paul says that all Scripture is profitable, he uses a word that means advantageous, beneficial.

Thinking: Sound and Unsound

- Then he lists four purposes for which Scripture Is beneficial:
- 1. For teaching. *Didaskalia* means "that which is taught, doctrine."
- The Bible gives us the word, the body of truth -- the doctrine - upon which we are to base our perspective and make our decisions in life.

Thinking: Sound and Unsound

- 2. For reproof. *Elegchos* means "to convict of error and to rebuke."
- During the Appraisal Process the Holy Spirit uses the Word to show us where are erring in our thinking.

Thinking: Sound and Unsound

- 3. For correction. *Epanorthosis* means "restoration to an upright or right state."
- Along with the conviction that we are going the wrong way, the Word always sheds light on the right way.
- If we are Subordinate to God and His Word, from the reproof will come a change in our Appraisal, which will result in the Biblical Representation.

Thinking: Sound and Unsound

- 4. For training. *Paideia* means "instruction and discipline given with the goal of rearing a child to maturity."
- The Bible is a guidebook to lead us from spiritual infancy to spiritual maturity.

Thinking: Sound and Unsound

- How do we know this is for the Appraisal Process?
- *Didaskalia* means "that which is taught, doctrine."
- *Elegchos* means "to convict of error and to rebuke."
- *Epanorthosis* means "restoration to an upright or right state."
- Look at the fourth = 'Paideia' – "instruction and discipline given with the goal of rearing a child to maturity."