

10. Whatever we do should be done a particular way.

- For His **glory**. **1 Corinthians 10:31**; *Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*
- **Heartily**. **Colossians 3:23**; *And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;*
- **As unto the Lord**. **Ephesians 6:7**; *With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:*
Malachi 1:6-8; *A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?*
⁷ *Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible.*
⁸ *And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy **governor**; will he be **pleased** with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.*
- With “**might**”, **excellence**. **Ecclesiastes 9:10**; *Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.*

11. God has not promised me “easy”, “trouble-free”, or “fun.”

- **John 16:33**: *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

(You didn't really expect me to have an even dozen, did you?)

Berean Baptist Church, Lafayette IN

Midweek Time in the Word – September 30, 2020

HODGEPODGE (yes, it's a real word) **OF FINAL THOUGHTS**

Hodgepodge – a confused mixture, a heterogenous mixture, jumble.

I think frequently about **thinking**. Our thinking is a vital component of our walk with Christ... we do not “mindlessly” follow Him. I process inputs (what I see, hear, feel...) through a very complex set of **filters**, **lenses**, **memories** and processors to arrive at my actions, decisions, feelings... I liken that complex set to a box that we never or rarely take apart to look at or change, and mostly don't even know it is there ... we don't think about it.

Changes in the workings of this box, is what the Lord uses to **transform** us. **Romans 12:2**

² *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

For my final midweek thoughts, let's crack open our “box.” There may be thoughts in my box that I that I shouldn't be there. There may be filters, lenses, memories ... that need to be realigned to match biblical truth and processors that need to generate biblical conclusions. There may be thoughts that need to be **renewed**; altered, redirected, focused, given different priority or value ... There may be thinking that doesn't exist and needs to be added...

HODGEPODGE OF FINAL THOUGHTS

1. Elevate, focus on, and give yourselves to the spiritual not the temporal. *(walk with Christ, spiritual growth, spiritual edification...)*

Matthew 6:33

³³ *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

Luke 12:15

¹⁵ *And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.*

- Your spiritual life is not an add-on to your regular life... it is your life.
- The church is a spiritual body ... guard it from becoming a social club, activity center, political headquarters ...

2. Big or bigger are not always what God wants, nor are they the measure of spiritual health or success in God's eyes.

- You cannot measure true spirituality with earthly measurements.

Revelation 3:17

¹⁷ Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

3. Gain is not always godliness.

1 Timothy 6:5

⁵ Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

- False teachers supposed that “godliness” was a means of gain... so they pretended to be godly.
- False: If I have things (gain) – I am godly or “God has **blessed**.”
- God's **provision** is not always His **blessing** or **approval**.
- **Absence** of **hardship** or **need** does not mean I am right with God.

4. New is not necessarily better than old, used, or traditional. New is not necessarily wrong. Old is not necessarily right.

- We should not automatically, quickly, or undiscerningly reject the new or cling to the old.
- **Different** is not necessarily **bad**.

Jeremiah 6:16

¹⁶ Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.

5. What “works” or gets results is not necessarily right. Achieving a good goal does not mean I am obeying or pleasing the Lord in how I achieve it.

- *It's not just what you do, but how you do it.*

6. Little things are seen by God and rewarded.

- The ministry is in the little things, the details. Little things open doors, remove distractions, adorn the doctrine, make us trustworthy in much...

Matthew 10:42

⁴² And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

Luke 16:10

¹⁰ He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

7. I cannot see everything. I do not know everything God is doing.

- I cannot see the **heart**. I can see reflections of the heart, but reflections are not always **precise**, tempering my judgments.
- I may not see the **work** of God and what He is doing in a heart. I may not see the work of God **right away** – something I say or do may be used of God **later**.
- I may **never** see the results of my labors.

Galatians 6:9-10

⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. ¹⁰ As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

1 Corinthians 15:58

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

8. Always keep in mind the value of the “one.”

- Luke 15 – the “one” was enough to **alter** their **actions**. We live in a world of numbers where decisions are made based on the many or more... not the one.

9. There are many parts to the harvest.

- We need to be engaged in the harvest, but not everyone does the same task. **Planting** and **watering**. Digging and Dugging. Sowing and Reaping. Giving and Receiving. Do Something!