

The Mind of an Elect or It is the Thought that Counts

To the church that was out of order – the Corinthians – the apostle Paul wrote in his first letter, 2nd chapter, a topic which is highly popular and taught – the subject of the mind of Christ.¹

In it, if you would read the chapter, elect, Paul quoted Isaiah 64.4 but not verbatim... as the original is: [Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides You, who acts on behalf of those who wait for Him.](#) But Paul wrote: ["No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him."](#)² See that Isaiah made no mention of the mind, whereas Paul did.

In the same way, Moses, in teaching Israel about the commandments, did not mention that they were to love God with all their mind, but taught that they should... [Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is One. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.](#)³ However, in Luke 10.25-27 [...an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" He replied. "How do you read it?" He answered: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' "](#) The expert in the law had added the fourth part – ["...all your mind..."](#) – to which Jesus replied, ["You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live."](#)⁴ I hope, elect, you realise that Jesus was saying to him, ["Do this and you will live the eternal life you seek to inherit,"](#) for the question was, ["...what must I do to inherit eternal life?"](#) Do you see that even though Moses spoke nothing about loving God with all your mind, Jesus did not correct this expert in the law?

Now see the order of the reply – heart, soul, strength and mind – the last is the mind, which also makes it the first... that is, the foremost of importance. For by a person's speech, emotions and actions... the heart, soul and strength are revealed, and their love of God in these three areas is revealed easily enough. However, how do you know the mind of a person, for it is not revealed by speech or emotions nor actions, but by thought?

Thought... that which reveals the mind cannot be heard or seen or felt, but can be known if you were Jesus, for it is written that Jesus knew the thoughts of others. See Matthew 9.4: [Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts?"](#) and Matthew 12.25: [Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them...](#) In these instances He knew the thoughts of those who did not think well of Him. In Luke 9.47 it is written: [Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child...](#) and again in Luke 11.17: [Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them...](#) The third time was the thoughts of His disciples and the fourth time was again the thoughts of those who opposed Him.

Now be reminded that anyone who has faith in Him can do what He has been doing and even the greater things. So it should not surprise you that you can know the thoughts of others as well as open the eyes of the blind, cause the mute to speak, the crippled to walk and raise the dead. However, do not... I repeat, do not delude yourself that you can know the thoughts of others if you cannot cause the mute to speak or the blind to see or the crippled to walk or raise the dead. [For unless you live the testimony that you are doing what He has been doing, then caution yourself not to be deluded into thinking that you know the thoughts of others.](#) For these miracles – the mute speaking, the dead raised, the crippled healed – are a reflection of the measure of the love of God that a person has for God in his heart and soul and by his strength.

See that Peter was accredited with a crippled healed and a dead raised, but not with a mute speaking... a love that is with the strength and the soul, but not of the heart... nor was he accredited with a blind man seeing.

However, it is because the blind have seen, the crippled have walked, the mute have spoken and even those who should have died are still alive that it is time for the mind of Christ to be made known and for you to know that mind.

¹ 1 Corinthians 2.16

² 1 Corinthians 2.9

³ Deuteronomy 6.4-5

⁴ Luke 10.28

Now look at the expert in the law of Luke 10 who had just **purposely**, yes, purposely added, "...and with all your mind..." to hear Jesus say, "You have answered correctly," when he knew he had not! And he knew he had not, yet Jesus had said he had! What do you think the expert in the law was thinking when he said, "And who is my neighbour?"⁵ Now the scripture says, But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus... What does the scripture mean when it says ...he wanted to justify himself...? It means he wanted to show and to explain to Jesus that his inclusion of "...and with all your mind..." was not a fluke, not a mistake, nor was it a malicious intention to test Jesus, but rather, it was to see if Jesus had a deeper understanding of the law as he had... for Jesus had said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" So he told Jesus how he read it... both the words that are written and that which is not written... the thought behind the command. In order to show Jesus that he, the expert in the law, did truly have a deeper understanding of the law, he then asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" for two reasons. One, to show Jesus that his first reply was not a fluke... and the second, to see if Jesus was of the same mind as he was when Jesus replied, "You have answered correctly." The expert in the law wanted to know if this reply of Jesus was a reply that was dismissive, that is, Jesus did not really hear the full answer and therefore did not pick upon the intentional error... or had Jesus, having heard the error, actually agreed with him, and if that was the case, what was Jesus' thoughts on who our neighbours are? You see, the expert in the law was testing Jesus to pick His brains, as the expression goes. He had heard what Jesus said, he had seen (felt) His emotions and seen His actions, but what was this Jesus really thinking? What sort of a mind does this Prophet from Galilee have?

Understand, elect, this is an expert in the law... a legal mind. The inclusion of that error – "...and with all your mind..." – was first to see if this Man Jesus, this supposed Christ, actually listens or was He like others who would have heard the first response – "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul..." – and assumed the rest of the answer was correct and therefore said, "You have answered correctly," when the truth is he had not by the letter, but had taken the liberty of the spirit of the Lord's question and added, "...and with all your mind..." You see, the liberty of the Lord's question was, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" This liberty is a double-edged sword, for many will use it as an excuse to misinterpret scripture and argue their point... after all, that is the way they read it. (More on that later.)

So when Jesus replied his question with the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus paid back to the expert the compliment, for the parable revealed to the expert in the law that both he and Jesus read the law the same way. For the expert correctly answered Jesus' question, "Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."⁶ You see, the expert in the law never heard that parable as Jesus using it to teach him to be charitable, but as the answer to his question, "And who is my neighbour?"

Yet how many times has this parable been used to teach the church to be charitable? In such a use of this parable, by taking it out of the context and purpose Jesus used it for, those who use it as a way to teach charity, or love of enemies even, have fallen into the trap for which parables are designed... that they are " '...ever hearing but never understanding... ever seeing but never perceiving,' "⁷ and so the knowledge and secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven and of God are hidden from them.

The reason for the test that the expert in the law had for Jesus was this: He was not testing Jesus' knowledge of scriptures, no... he was testing to find out what and how Jesus thought of eternal life and what it truly is. To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and strength does not mean that you know Him, but to love Him with all your mind, then that is a thoughtful, knowing love that reflects what you know, not what you believe, feel or do for Him, but what you know of Him. And that is eternal life, for Jesus defined it to His disciples, "Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent."⁸ But this expert in the law needed no such definition. He not only received the answer to his question, "...what must I do to inherit eternal life?" but he also received the definition of eternal life from Jesus in his conversation.

You see, elect, unlike the disciples, this expert in the law was not dull. You can be hardened in the heart and overwhelmed in the soul and weak in strength... but of your mind, you can be dull, which is why Jesus said, "Are you still so dull?"⁹ when His disciples still did not understand about food and uncleanness after He had multiplied the food and taught them to drink His blood and eat His flesh.

⁵ Luke 10.29

⁶ Luke 10.36-37

⁷ Matthew 13.14

⁸ John 17.3

⁹ Matthew 15.16

Thus, it is our hearts that can be hardened like the twelve were when **...they had not understood about the loaves...**¹⁰ our souls can be overwhelmed with sorrow like the Lord's, even to the point of death,¹¹ and our flesh (body) can be weak...¹² but it is our minds that can be dull.

So then what is a sharp mind? Is it one of high intelligence that can comprehend all knowledge and propose great theories which is the sharp mind Jesus is looking for? Certainly not, for you will find that those who are supposed to be of the highest intelligence and are the greatest minds of science, politics and philosophy will still deny that there is a God. And the psalmist reminded us: **The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."**¹³ Their intelligence of mind convinces them there is no God so that for all their knowledge and sharpness of mind, as the world calls them, they are but fools.

So what is a sharp mind, elect? You say, one who has the mind of Christ... true. However, what did Paul mean when he wrote: **But we have the mind of Christ?**¹⁴ When Paul wrote: **But we have the mind of Christ...** I trust you can now see he was not speaking of the Corinthians, but of himself and those who can **...speak a message of wisdom among the mature...**¹⁵ What then is this 'mind of Christ' that Paul spoke of? Is it a mind that thinks like Christ? If you thought that, you are in dangerous territory, elect, for those who have a mind that thinks like Messiah are those who delude themselves into thinking like a messiah and are quietly lost. No, elect, **before you can have a mind like Christ's, you must first know what Christ has in His mind.** It is simple logic that any child can understand. How can you speak like someone unless you have heard and listened to what that person is saying and how he says it? How can you act like someone unless you have watched and mimicked what he is doing? How can you feel as another person feels unless you experience what he has experienced? So then how can you think like another person unless you first know what that person is thinking? So then you can only say, "We have the mind of Christ," if you know what Jesus is thinking. **After you know what Jesus is thinking, then, elect, you might be able to think as He thinks, and who can reveal that to you except the Holy Spirit?** For as Paul the elect has written: **...God has revealed it to us by His Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.**¹⁶

It is the Holy Spirit who reveals what Christ has in mind... what Christ was thinking even as He spoke, acted and revealed His emotions before our eyes and ears. But if you would not even listen, if you would not watch and learn, if you would not want to share what is felt, who then in their right mind would show you what they are thinking? And **certainly, if the Spirit of God cannot trust you with miraculous power, then it is most unlikely He would trust you with the thoughts of Christ.**

So then, though you search the scriptures and know them, the question remains, **"How do you read it?"** All theology, doctrines, expositions, essays and thesis on any scripture is worthless and useless if the way you read it does not have in mind the things of God and in particular, the thought of God. When you understand this, elect, you need not defend the way you read the scriptures or how you behave, for wisdom is proved right by her children and her actions.¹⁷ **When the fellowship you raise up is filled with God's children who know their Father and these children of God are doing what their Father has been doing, with the blind seeing, the mute speaking, the lame walking and the dead raised in abundance, then, elect, you have come to know the mind of Christ.**

Now, elect, consider... what did God have in mind for the disciples He gave to His Son to do for Him?

¹⁰ Mark 6.52

¹¹ Matthew 26.38; Mark 14.34

¹² Matthew 26.41; Mark 14.38

¹³ Psalm 14.1; 53.1

¹⁴ 1 Corinthians 2.16

¹⁵ 1 Corinthians 2.6

¹⁶ 1 Corinthians 2.10-11

¹⁷ Matthew 11.19; Luke 7.35