

The Window of the Heart by John Piper

Solid Joys, desiringGod.org

Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. (Hebrews 12:3)

One of the most remarkable capacities of the human mind is the capacity to direct its own attention to something it chooses. We can pause and say to our minds, "Think about this, and not that." We can focus our attention on an idea or a picture or a problem or a hope.

It is an amazing power. I doubt that animals have it. They are probably not self-reflective, but rather governed by impulse and instinct.

Have you been neglecting this great weapon in the arsenal of your war against sin? The Bible calls us again and again to use this remarkable gift. Let's take this gift off the shelf, and dust it off, and put it to use.

For example, Paul says in Romans 8:5-6, "Those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace" (my translation).

This is stunning. What you set your mind on determines whether the issue is life or death.

Events

2/2 Members Family Meeting 7 PM
2/7-8 VisionYouth GO Conf
2/9 College & Career Lunch 1 PM
2/15 Vanesa bridal shower
2/21-22 Paul Tripp Parenting Conference

Many of us have become far too passive in our pursuit of change and wholeness and peace. I have the feeling that in our therapeutic age we have fallen into the passive mindset of simply "talking through our problems" or "dealing with our issues" or "discovering the roots of our brokenness in our family of origin."

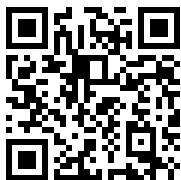
But I see a much more aggressive, non-passive approach to change in the New Testament. Namely, set your mind. "Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth" (Colossians 3:2).

Our emotions are governed in large measure by what we consider — what we dwell on with our minds. For example, Jesus told us to overcome the emotion of anxiety by what we consider: "Consider the ravens. . . . Consider the lilies" (Luke 12:24, 27).

The mind is the window of the heart. If we let our minds constantly dwell on the dark, the heart will feel dark. But if we open the window of our mind to the light, the heart will feel the light.

Above all, this great capacity of our minds to focus and consider is meant for considering Jesus (Hebrews 12:3). So, let's do this: "Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted."

Give



Upcoming Events



That you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God

Pastors

Gary Hendrix Stephen Byrd
Stu Johnston Bob Prentice
Michael Lopes

Service Times

— Sunday School 9:30 am
— Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
— Sunday Evening Worship 5:30 pm
— Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:15 pm

919-563-9249
www.grbc.net

January 26, 2020



Morning Worship

Call to Worship Opening Hymn

Pastor Stu Johnston
Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder

Let us love, and sing, and wonder, let us praise the Savior's name!
He has hushed the law's loud thunder, He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame;
He has washed us with His blood, He has washed us with His blood,
He has washed us with His blood, He has brought us nigh to God.

Let us love the Lord who bought us, pitied us when enemies,
called us by His grace, and taught us, gave us ears and gave us eyes:
He has washed us with His blood, He has washed us with His blood,
He has washed us with His blood, He presents our souls to God.

Let us sing, though fierce temptation threaten hard to bear us down!
For the Lord, our strong salvation, holds in view the Conqueror's crown,
He who washed us with His blood, He who washed us with His blood,
He who washed us with His blood, soon will bring us home to God.

Let us wonder; grace and justice join and point to mercy's store;
When through grace in Christ our trust is, justice smiles, and asks no more:
He who washed us with His blood, He who washed us with His blood,
He who washed us with His blood, has secured our way to God.

Let us praise, and join the chorus of the saints enthroned on high;
Here they trusted Him before us, now their praises fill the sky:
"Thou hast washed us with Thy blood;
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood;
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood; Thou art worthy, Lamb of God!"

Words: John Newton, 1774 Music: Laura Taylor
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Scripture Reading Pastoral Prayer Offertory

Titus 2, page 998

There is a Higher Throne

There is a Higher Throne, than all this world has known,
where faithful ones from every tongue, will one day come.
Before the Son we'll stand, made faultless through the Lamb;
believing hearts find promised grace; salvation comes.

(Chorus) Hear Heaven's voices sing; their thunderous anthem rings
Through emerald courts and sapphire skies; their praises rise.
All glory, wisdom, power, strength, thanks, and honor
are to God, our King, Who reigns on high forevermore!

And there we'll find our home; our life before the Throne.
We'll honor Him in perfect song where we belong.
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye as thirst and hunger die.
The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King, we'll reign with Him. **(Chorus 2x)**

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Preparatory

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand, and cast a wishful eye
to Canaan's fair and happy land, where my possessions lie.
All o'er those wide extended plains, shines one eternal day;
there God, the Son forever reigns, and scatters night away.

(Chorus with "echos")

I am bound, I am bound, I am bound for the Promised Land.
I am bound, I am bound, I am bound for the Promised Land.

No chilling winds or poisonous breath, can reach that healthful shore,
sickness, sorrow, pain and death, are felt and feared no more.
(Chorus with "echos")

When shall I reach that happy place, and be forever blessed?
When shall I see my Father's face, and in His bosom rest?
(Chorus with "echos") (repeat chorus)

Text: Samuel Stennett Music: Christopher Miner © 1997 Christopher Miner Music Used by Permission CCLI #1899094

Sermon

Pastor Gary Hendrix

Evening Worship

Call to Worship Pastoral Prayer Opening Hymn Offertory

Pastor Stu Johnston
Pastor Bob Prentice
#181 O Dearest Jesus
The Power of the Cross

O, to see the dawn of the darkest day; Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then nailed to a cross of wood.
This the pow'r of the cross: Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath; we stand forgiven at the cross.

O, to see the pain written on Your face, bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed crowning Your bloodstained brow.
This the pow'r of the cross: Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath; we stand forgiven at the cross.

Now the daylight flees; now the ground beneath quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life – "Finished!" the vic'try cry.
This the pow'r of the cross: Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath; we stand forgiven at the cross.

O, to see my name written in the wounds, for through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live, won through Your selfless love!
This the pow'r of the cross: Son of God – slain for us.
What a love, what a cost! We stand forgiven at the cross.

Words and Music: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend
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Scripture Reading Sermon

Matthew 25:31-46, page 831
Pastor Stu Johnston

Testimonials

Closing Song

Behold Our God

1. Who has held the oceans in His hands? Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice, all creation rises to rejoice.

(Chorus)

Behold our God, seated on His throne. Come, let us adore Him.
Behold our King, nothing can compare. Come, let us adore Him!

2. Who has given counsel to the Lord? Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things? Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?

(Chorus)

3. Who has felt the nails upon His hands, bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave, Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign!

(Chorus)

Bridge 4x

(male voices)

You will reign forever

(female voices)

Let Your glory fill the earth

(Chorus)

Text and Music: Jonathan Baird, Meghan Baird, Ryan Baird, and Stephen Altrogge
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Closing Prayers