

Sobering Truths

1Thessalonians 5:4-11

Do we realize that we're in a spiritual battle for our lives? 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

It's a very frustrating battle sometimes ... Romans 7:19-23

Sometimes we lose such battles because we were deceived or deluded in our thinking. (Genesis 3:13ff; Proverbs 7:21-23; Isaiah 44:18-20; 47:8-10; Luke 15:11-17)

Do we ever find ourselves saying, "what was I thinking?"

What were we thinking when we thought ...

- More highly of ourselves than we ought to think? Romans 12:3; Galatians 6:3
- The scriptures tell us what we want to hear? John 5:39; 2 Timothy 4:3-4
- We have all the time we want to make things right with God? Luke 12:16-21; James 4:13-17
- That we're not vulnerable to sin? 1 Corinthians 10:12-13

We Must Start Thinking Properly and Soberly!

To that end, we are called upon in the scriptures to control our minds and to be "**alert and sober**" in our thinking

1 Thessalonians 5:4-11

1 Corinthians 15:33-34

It's time for us to wake up!

What does it mean to be sober minded?

"To be **calm and collected in spirit**; to be **temperate, dispassionate, circumspect**" (Thayer) It includes the idea of being **morally alert and watchful**.

It originally meant "free from the influence of intoxicants" (Vine) and from that we can understand that **a Christian who is sober is one who is thinking clearly and properly and exercising sound judgment.**

What does someone need to do who is intoxicated and facing a tremendous battle?

They need to sober up.

Peter in his first epistle identifies **3 key things that will help all of us become more sober minded.**

Our imperishable, undefiled, and unfading hope

Peter wrote in **1 Peter 1:13**, *"Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep **sober** in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."*

A mind fixed on the hope of eternal life with God in heaven is going to be a mind that is collected, temperate, and circumspect, carefully considering the impact of all we do, say, and think on our eternal hope.

Our imperishable, undefiled, and unfading hope

Hope will enable us to keep any **suffering and persecution** for the cause of Christ in proper perspective.

Whatever sufferings we are called upon to bear in *"... this present time are **not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.**" (Romans 8:18)*

Our hope is to **anchor our soul and mind** against all that Satan will assail them with. (**Hebrews 6:19**)

Our imperishable, undefiled, and unfading hope

Our hope should help us be sober minded when we remember that what we hope for is **eternal** but all that Satan tempts us with in this life is **temporal and short-lived**. (**2 Corinthians 4:17-18**)

The Desire of Reward must be present if we are to be sober minded.

Matthew 5:12; Colossians 3:24; Hebrews 11:26; 12:15-17; Ephesians 1:18-19

Our formidable adversary, Satan

1 Peter 5:8, *"Be of **sober** spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."*

Our minds need to be clearly impressed and awakened by the fact that there is one whose sole objective is to destroy and condemn us and destroy our hope.

Whose efforts are **deceptive**, as we read in **2 Thessalonians 2:9-10**

Our formidable adversary, Satan

His efforts are primarily against those who belong to God. He has those of the world in his power and domain. **1 John 5:19**

Therefore, Satan seeks to cast us down and accuse us before our Father. **Revelation 12:9-10**

He's a formidable foe but we can overcome! **Ephesians 6:13; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:9; Revelation 12:11**

Standing before the judgment seat of God

1 Peter 4:7, *"The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be of **sound judgment and sober spirit** for the purpose of prayer."*

To **have faith** in a God who is **ready to judge**, along with knowledge that the **"end of all things"** is **"at hand"** should cause us to be sober and exercise sound judgment.

Standing before the judgment seat of God

Judgment is certain. Romans 14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Hebrews 9:27

The thought of accounting for all that we have done in our lives upon this earth should bring about clear thinking and sobering truths.

Standing before the judgment seat of God

It is a "woeful" thing to stand before the throne of God in an "undone" condition as Isaiah the prophet found out. (cf. Isaiah 6:1-7; Luke 5:8)

Felix found it to be uncomfortably sobering to consider the judgment in Acts 24:25-26

Rather, the judgment of God should sober us up to deal with any sin in our lives. (2 Corinthians 7:1; Hebrews 10:26-31)

Standing before the judgment seat of God

If we deal with the sin in our lives according to His word, we may with soberness, "have confidence in the day of judgment." (1 John 2:28; 4:17; 5:13)

Finally, what brings about sober mindedness?

- Frequent and continued exposure to the word of God!
- Acts 26:25, "... I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I utter *words of sober truth.*"