

“The Most Important Thing About Us”

Proverbs 23:7

Wednesday, July 28, 2021

Introduction: Tonight, I want to do something that will be a blessing to you and help you be a blessing to other people. That should be the goal of every sermon and Bible study rather than just giving information.

1. Be a blessing to you:

- A sermon or Bible study needs to give some information.
- In my sermon last Sunday, I gave some information that I thought would be helpful. For example: Open your Bible to Colossians chapter 1.
- But I also gave some practical things to incorporate into our lives. The practical things included some information, but then came the challenge.

Illustration:

1. We could give Jesus preeminence by the way we live (Colossians 1:10).
2. We could give Jesus preeminence by being fruitful (Colossians 1:10).
3. We could give Jesus preeminence by knowing God better and better (Colossians 1:10).

Illustration: A church in San Antonio did something recently that gave information and then helped the people apply it. To hear the story, listen to the sermon on the church web page.

Application: What we will do tonight will be a blessing to you, but also a blessing to other people.

2. **Be a blessing to other people:** Our Bible study tonight gives you the tools you need to be fruitful (Colossians 1:10).
- Remember one of the characteristics of fruit is that it does not exist for itself. Fruit exists for others.
 - Christians likewise exists for others.

Question: What is the most important thing about us?

Answer: Our (thoughts) are the most important thing about us.

- The Bible teaches that.
- “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he” (Proverbs 23:7).
- The context of Proverbs 23:7 is Proverbs 23:6-8.
- The word translated “miser” denotes a greedy person who, to be rich, hoards his riches, withholding from the poor and needy to increase his own wealth. He then invites them to eat and, in some way, increase his wealth at their expense.
- The Principle in Proverbs 23:7 is broader than the miser.
- Proverbs 23:7 is about our thoughts. It is about our mind
- The Bible is filled with verses about our mind.
 1. Isaiah 26:3
 2. Romans 8:5-6
 3. Romans 12:2
 4. Ephesians 4:23
 5. Philippians 2:5
 6. Colossians 3:2
 7. 2 Timothy 1:7

We (are) what we (think) and the encouraging thing about it is that we can (control) what we (think).

- The first example of this in the Bible is in the first book in the Bible.
- Genesis 2:15-17
- Genesis 3:1-5

We think and then do. You are proof of that. You thought about coming to church tonight and you came. Those streaming the service thought about streaming the service and streamed the service.

Illustration: If you think angry thoughts, you will be angry.

Illustration: If you think positive thoughts, you will be positive.

Illustration: If you think negative thoughts, you will be negative.

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING ABOUT YOU IS WHAT YOU THINK!! This is the reason it is so important to memorize Bible verses.

Reasons to Memorize Bible verses:

1. It fills your mind with the best thoughts ever recorded.
2. It makes the Bible portable.
3. You will have a word from God available when needed.
4. It gives a word from God to say to others.
5. It is something you can do wherever you are.
6. Maintains our mental equilibrium and spiritual vitality.
7. Helps with depression. Depression is the result of wrong thinking.

Conclusion: Now comes the fun part of tonight—memorizing Bible verses.

Dottie has been one of my best resources on books she thinks I need to read. For example: Dottie told me about Dr. Kendall's book *Total Forgiveness*. Her brother told her about the book.

The newest book Dottie told me about is Robert Morgan's book, *100 Bible verses*. It is an incredible book. The first 44 pages of the book is worth the price of the book.

- In the back of the book, there is a good section on how to memorize.
- After the first 44 pages, there are 204 pages giving 100 Bible verses to memorize.
- Hopefully, by next Wednesday night we will have the book in the bookstore (\$8.00 each).

Tonight: Tell yourself that you can memorize whatever your age because you can!

- When we are young, we have good memorizers.
- When we are older, our memorizers slow down, but our wisdomizers speed up because we know things we did not know when we were younger.
- Make up your mind that you can memorize just one verse.
- Before next Wednesday night memorize Genesis 1:1.
- Those ten words are the foundation for the remaining thirty-one thousand verses of God's Word.

