

**Elmslie Memorial United church**  
**Sunday October 17, 2010**  
**Service of Appreciation for the CPHS Staff**

**Sermon by Rev. Dr. Dave Hazle**

**Title:** Loving God with All my Mind

**Text:** Deu 6:4-12; Mark 12: 28-34

**Remarks**

Welcome to CPHS staff

Today as we continue our look at loving God with our whole being I want to look at the topic "Loving God with all my Mind" [slide 1]

Prayer

**Introduction**

**Background to the text**

- One of the interesting interactions recorded in the New Testament is that between Jesus and the Jewish leaders of His day. Often Jesus would warn His followers to watch out for their hypocrisy & insincerity. On the other hand they often tried to undermine Jesus' authority & integrity and would often confront Him in public with the intension of embarrassing Him. They would ask Him difficult questions about controversial issues with the aim of tripping Him up or getting Him to say something stupid
- One of the big controversies of Jesus' day was about the commandments. In particular there was debate about which was the greatest command.
- One day "a teacher of the law" or as Matthew describes him "a Pharisee" asked Jesus the question, "Of all the commandments", he said, "Which is the most important?"

**Jesus' Response**

There is little doubt that the Answer Jesus gave was partly based on a prayer that every Jew would say daily know as the Shema which means "hear" and which is recorded in the passage that was read from Deuteronomy 6:

## **Jesus' Emphasis –Mind [Slide2:1]**

Both Matthew and Mark record an interesting emphasis in Jesus' response.

## **Deuteronomy simply says: [Slide 2:2]**

<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup> **Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.**

## **But in Mark [Slide 2:3]**

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>[a]</sup> <sup>30</sup> **Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.**

## **2 lessons**

### **1. The use of the mind & Christian faith don't have to be separated from each other**

- Very often when we think of matters of faith and spirituality we are tempted to think only of something emotional and unreal, mythical not really having to do with the mind and intellect
- But matters of faith and spirituality don't mean your mind and intellect are not important.
- To become a Christian doesn't mean you commit intellectual suicide.
- Many of the great Universities around the world were started by churches
- The United Church both in Jamaica and Cayman is associated with some of the best institutions of learning in our islands
- As church and school we have a tremendous opportunity to shape the thinking of our young people not just to do well in their academics but to Know God and Love God with their whole being.

### **2. Jesus wants to emphasis the importance of the mind in our relationship with God**

- Very often in spiritual matters in moral issues the real battle ground is our mind.
- Jesus knows that if we are to truly love God with our whole being then the mind must be an integral part of that
- Jesus knows that right mind leads to right thinking and right thinking leads to right living

**So I think this emphasis by Jesus is quite deliberate and ought not to be overlooked.**

**So how then do we Love God with all our mind? When we: [Slide 3:1]**

**1. Makeover our mind [slide 3:2]**

By Allowing our minds to be renewed

**Romans 12:2 [slide 3;3]**

<sup>2</sup>Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**Illustration**

Reality shows about makeover

Makeover your mind

- When we become Christians our thoughts and attitudes don't automatically change
- We have to be open to the spirit of God at work in us to renew our way of thinking
- We renew our minds as we spend time reading God's word & exposing ourselves to Christian instruction.
- The mind makeover is essential if we are to have right thinking and right living

**Challenge**

Some of us need an extreme makeover when we come to Christ because we have become so conformed to the world's pattern of thinking that a Christian way of seeing things is totally alien

What are you doing to renew/makeover your mind?

We love God with our minds when we makeover our minds

**2. Investigate God [slide 4:1]**

**We love God with all our mind when we investigate God**

***Paul's prayer for the Ephesians [Eph 1:17-19] [Slide 4:2]***

<sup>17</sup>I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit<sup>[a]</sup> of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup>I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he

has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,  
<sup>19</sup>and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

### ***Paul's desire to Know God Philippians 3:10-11***

<sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,  
<sup>11</sup>and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Investigate God

### **Making ourselves students of God**

- Don't wait for knowledge to come to you go looking for opportunities to increase your knowledge of God.
- Become a student of God's word. Spend time reading, discovering, researching God's word for yourself
- Read or expose yourself to teaching about God as often as you can.
- Sunday morning is not enough (personal seeking, Home group, Christian Discipleship (CD)).

### **We love God with all our minds when we investigate God**

#### **3. Neuter earthly thinking [slide 5:1]**

We love God with all our minds when we neuter, sterilize, make barren our earth bound thinking (explain Neuter)

### **Colossians 3:2-10 [Slide 5:2]**

<sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things..... <sup>5</sup>Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.....  
<sup>7</sup>You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. <sup>8</sup>But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. <sup>9</sup>Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup>and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Neuter earthly thinking and set our minds on Godly things (things above)

We neuter earthly thinking when we manage your diet of music, literature, computer games

## **Challenge**

Sometimes we need to declare a no news day, No TV day, No internet day and avoid the lure of the earth bound thinking;

- The constant reminder that I need to look a certain way to be beautiful
- The constant reminder about the bargains at some sale. So I can buy what I can't afford to possess what everybody else has but which I don't need so I can be like those I don't even like
- The movies and music that depict greed for earthly possessions, glamorizes murder and immorality,
- The stories of betrayal and infidelity as if that is the only way to live

What a breath of fresh air was the story of the rescue of those Chilean miners last week

**If we are to love God with all our minds we all need to neuter earthly thinking**

### **4. Dwell on the right things [Slide 6:1]**

We love God with all our mind when we dwell on the right things, when we allow our minds to meditate on things that are uplifting

### **Philippians 4:8 [Slide 6:2]**

<sup>8</sup>Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

## **Challenge**

If you find that you your mind is dwelling on past hurts, revenge, disappointments, criticism, failure, rumors & half truths you need to change your thinking.

For those thoughts are robbing your affection and connection with God

When the temptation comes to dwell on the negative search your thoughts for something that is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent or praiseworthy

If we are to love God with all our minds we must meditate on/ dwell on the right things.

## **Conclusion**

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”

We love God with all our mind when we: [Slide 7:1]

**M**akeover our minds [Slide 7:2]

**I**investigate God [Slide 7:3]

**N**euter earthly thinking [Slide 7:4]

**D**well on the right things [Slide 7:5]

Prayer