

“Think!” *Ephesians 5:15-21*, page 1145

Introduction:

1. The apostle Paul urges us to seek to be wise and avoid being unwise.
2. Wisdom is not acquired knowledge.
3. Wisdom is described as “sophos” in the original Greek text.
 - A. “Ability to think and discern truth.”
 - B. “Ability to make sound judgments and decisions based on insight.”
4. In our noisy, fast-paced world, it is difficult to find time to think.
5. Today I would like to have you consider a few questions and encourage you to really THINK.

I. THINK – “Who am I?”

- A. Be very specific; think in first person.
 1. Child of Jehovah God.
 2. Son of Delos and Avis Skinner.
 3. Husband of Charlene.
 4. Father of Rodney and Ronda.
 5. Grandfather of five grandchildren.
 6. Farm boy with a college degree.
 7. Pastor of B.I.C.C.
 8. Homeowner on Beaver Island.
 9. Friend to many people.
- B. I am a sixty-six year old man with strengths and weaknesses.
- C. I am a person who is sometimes challenged to overcome physical and emotional problems.
 1. I know my doubts and fears.
 2. I have experienced victory and defeat.
- D. It is a good thing to spend some time thinking: Who am I?
- E. This is the place to begin.
 1. We must answer this question before we go to the second question.
 2. Everything in life depends on finding the correct answer to this question: Who am I?

II. THINK – What am I doing with my life?

- A. We cannot go back and relive yesterday.
- B. What am I doing with today?
- C. What plans do I have for tomorrow?
- D. We have responsibility to address each phase of “Who am I”
 1. Relationship with God.
 2. My dad.

3. Charlene.
4. Rodney and Ronda and their families.
- E. Many times it is the little things:
 1. Telephone call.
 2. Send card.
 3. Send a rose.
 4. Share a cup of coffee.
 5. Lend a helping hand.
- F. Simply sharing our lives with those around us makes our world a better place to live.
- G. Take time to THINK: What are the needs of others that perhaps I can be of help to them?

III. **THINK –What reputation am I building for myself today?**

- A. What does God think of me? *Job 1:1: “There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.”*
- B. How would my spouse describe me?
- C. What do my children think of me?
- D. How will our grandchildren remember us?
- E. What do my neighbors say about me?
- F. How we answer these questions has a direct reflection on our first question: Who am I?
 1. It is none of their business.
 2. I do not care what they think.
 3. It is their problem, not mine.
 4. My dad will be happier if he has positive thoughts about me.
 5. A positive relationship with my spouse is an example to our children.
 6. A close relationship with my grandchildren is a positive basis to teach them values and morals.
- H. I do care what people think about my reputation and me.

Conclusion:

1. It is a good thing to seek wisdom.
2. The way to wisdom is simply taking time to THINK.
3. Finding wisdom is not a group activity.
4. Finding wisdom requires time alone and time with God.
5. Think original, personal thoughts, and you will find wisdom. *James 1:5: “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”*
6. Today we end the year of 2006. We thank God for His blessings.
7. Tomorrow we begin the new year of 2007. We look forward to God’s leadership in our lives.