

## *Have You Really Thought About it?*

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**Introduction:** We do many things with little or no thought

- A. It is understood by those who study human behavior that we do many things without careful thought!
1. One writer lists six shortcuts from facts and reason in making decisions.  
(From the Psychology of Persuasion – Robert Cialdini)
  2. The Bible warns that we should not treat God's word in that manner.  
(Lk 8:18; Deut 29:2-5)
- B. Regular Bible reading and meditation is crucial to the development of a good heart.
1. As we wake, live and lay down in our bed we should make effort to mediate on God's word. (Ps 63:6-8; 77:11-12; 119:15, 27, 48)
  2. When we do this then God's word will become the most important thing to us.
  3. When we do not mediate and daily apply God's word then we fall into a way of thinking that comes when we choose not to think --- worldliness!

### ***I. Have we thought about the easy path of worldliness?***

- A. Because men tend to follow the “path of least resistance” worldliness becomes the dominate force in their lives. (1 Jn 2:15-17)
1. The “lust of the flesh” is simply putting first whatever our body wants. For example, it is harder to diet than to gain weight!
  2. The “lust of the eyes” involves both the desires of the flesh and the false world that pride brings. As an example, it is easier to spend than to save!
  3. The “pride of life” involves the unreal-ego centered world that comes when we put ourselves first. It is easier to praise ourselves than to see our faults!
- B. The lazy mind will not resist the pressures of the world. (Lk 11:34-36)
1. What are some of the “shortcuts” to reason? Most of them involve our desire to belong and to be consistent.
1. **Reciprocation** - “There is an obligation to give, an obligation to receive, and an obligation to repay.”
  2. **Commitment and consistency** -. Once we have made a choice or taken a stand, we will encounter pressures to behave consistently with that commitment.
  3. **Social proof** - “We view behavior as more correct in a given situation to the degree that we see others performing it.”
  4. **Liking** - “People prefer to say ‘yes’ to those they know and like.”
  5. **Authority** - “We tend to follow authority figures. An order from an authority is usually seen in isolation instead of the situation as a whole. We are as vulnerable to the symbols of authority as to its substance.”
2. These shortcuts were very effective in keeping men from following Jesus.  
(Jn 7:48-49; 12:42-43; Mt 10:37-39)
  3. When people “follow their gut” they are taking the easy path. (Prov 17:16)
  4. Some in pride just assume that they can speak for God. (Prov 6:16; Jas 4:6)
  5. Reasoning from and applying scripture takes time and effort. It also may cost you important relationships.

## ***II. Have we thought about our entertainment – parties, social outings and mass media?***

### **A. Social drinking is a requirement for many kinds of relationships. (1 Pt 4:3-5)**

1. In High School you could not be close friends with some unless you approved of and partook of their drugs.
2. It was celebrated when one “grew-up” and joined the ranks of those who lived for the “high.” What if we don’t think about it?
3. There was open disdain for even those who simply refused to participate.
4. Social drinking is commonly expected in many professions.
5. Daniel could have lost his life by refusing to compromise. (Dan 1:8)

### **B. Immorality and the things that lead to it are aggressively pushed in our culture. (Gal 6:7-8)**

1. Our dress and our actions will communicate a message? What message is common to the social dance and the “bar scene?”
2. The “heroes” in our movies and television openly praise immorality. Those that urge abstinence are pictured as judgmental. What if we don’t think about it?
3. What are we thinking about the most? We can be broken in our convictions if we stop tearing down bad thinking. This takes effort! (2 Cor 10:5)

## ***III. Have we thought about our how we use our money and possessions?***

### **A. What is our understanding of where real treasure is found? (Lk 12:32-34)**

1. A wrong choice has terrible, consistent consequences. (1 Tim 6:9-10; Gal 6:7)
2. What if we don’t think about it?
3. What if you have money but do not have God? There are some things money cannot buy! (Prov 11:4; Lk 12:19-21)
4. We can state these truths as facts but still have money as our “foundation.” There is great deceit in a man who loves money. (Mt 13:22)

### **C. It is crucial that we develop a God-centered concept about our value in this life. (Jer 9:23-24)**

1. How do we develop these concepts? Who is praised? Who are our “heroes?”
2. What is our view towards giving? (2 Cor 9:6-7)

## ***IV. Have we thought about our how we dress?***

### **A. The way we dress should reflect on the character within us. (1 Tim 2:9-10) KJV**

**Modest** - (kosmios) - of good behaviour, well arranged, seemly.

**Shamefacedness** - (aidos) - perhaps ..through the idea of downcast eyes; a sense of shame or honor, modesty, bashfulness, reverence, regard for others, respect.

**sobriety** - (sophrosune) 1) soundness of mind 2) self-control

### **B. God expects both men and women to be ashamed in their nakedness. (Rev 3:17-18)**

1. A lack of clothing ought to produce shame. What if we don’t think about it?
2. Shame is something that can be lost when we let culture dictate what we wear. What happens when we simply “trust our gut?” (Jer 6:15; 8:12)
3. Some will want us to be “ashamed about modesty!” They call it “stone-aged.”

**Conclusion:** May we have the courage to reason – and apply God’s word in all matters!