

DISCIPLINING THE MIND¹

Ill: **The human brain** – *“The most advanced supercomputer in the world has yet to be upgraded.”*

I Cor. 2:16 – *“We have the mind of Christ”*

Rom. 12:2 – *“Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”*

“Believe me, my friends, the mind today is in profound trouble, perhaps more than ever before. How to order the mind on sound Christian principles, at the heart of where it is formed and informed, is one of the greatest themes that can be considered.” (former UN Secretary General Charles Malik)

“The Christian mind has succumbed to the secular drift with a degree of weakness and nervelessness unmatched in Christian history.” (Harry Blamires, *The Christian Mind*, pp. 3-4) cf. I Cor. 3:1-2; Heb. 5:13-14.

Prov. 4:23 – *“Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.”*

Prov. 23:7 – *“As a man thinks in his heart, so he is.”*

Phil. 4:8 – *“Whatever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely & of good report, think on these things.”*

“Each of Paul’s ingredients is explicitly positive... Each ingredient was, and is, a matter of personal choice – and our choices make all the difference in the world. We all can choose a thought program which will produce a Christian mind... “So we must lay down as fundamental to our Christianity this truth: a Christian mind demands conscious negation; a Christian mind is impossible without the discipline of refusal.” (R. Kent Hughes, *Disciplines of a Godly Man* (Crossway Books: Wheaton, IL, 1991), (Crossway Books: Westchester, IL, 1985), pp. 72-73)

Ill: **Colson with a media executive**: *“So where are your 50 million born-again Christians, Mr. Colson?”* (Chuck Colson, *Who Speaks for God?* (Crossway Books: Westchester, IL, 1985), pp. 129-130)

Ill: **TV/Cell Phone/Computer stats** (Hughes, pp. 74-75)

Ill: **Lt. General William K. Harrison**, the most decorated soldier in the 30th Infantry Division, rated by General Eisenhower as the number one infantry division in WWII. He read the OT 70 times by age ninety, and the NT 280 times! (Hughes, pp. 76-77)

“You can never have a Christian mind without reading the Scriptures regularly because you cannot be profoundly influenced by that which you do not know.” (Hughes, p. 77)

We’re not talking speed reading! Ill: **Lucy from Peanuts** – *“I just completed a course in speed reading and last night I read War and Peace in one hour! ...It was about Russia.”* (Hughes, p. 77)

Ill: Quote from **Dennis Prager** (a Jew) **about the fact that Christians don’t read** (Hughes, p. 78)

Ill: *“The bulk of the non-reading Christian public are men, who buy only 25% of all Christian books.”* (Bill Hendricks, Christian Booksellers Association, Feb. 28, 1991, regarding a recent survey taken in 7 Christian bookstores in different parts of the country, cited in Hughes, p. 78)

“Men, you need to fill your mind with good stuff.” (Hughes, p. 79)

¹ Thoughts & illustrations from *“Disciplines of a Godly Man”* by R. Kent Hughes (Crossway Books: Wheaton, IL, 1991)