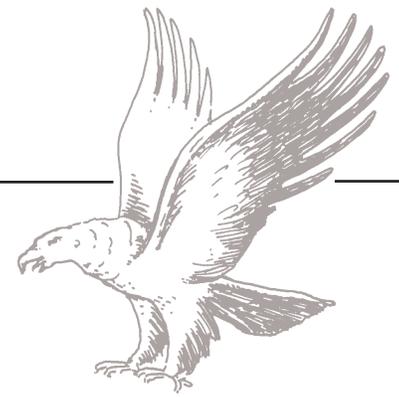


Wings

*“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”
Isaiah 40:31*



November 9, 2014

Setting the Mind

Everyone of us makes a conscious decision to focus our thinking on one of two different versions of reality. The choice we make influences the quality of life we live now, and hereafter.

“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth” (Col. 3:1-2).

“. . . they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things” (Phil. 3:18-19).



In all the animal kingdom, human beings are unique in their ability to think abstractly. We have minds with which we can ponder concepts beyond the reach of the lower animals. Moreover, we are capable of guiding those thought processes in whatever direction we choose. It is our role as thinking creatures that makes us human.

But what topics do we think about? The possibilities are endless, but the deck is definitely stacked in one direction. Trapped in bodies equipped with sensory faculties and impulses, our minds are inevitably drawn toward those things that relate to our bodily desires.

We can see, hear, taste, and feel a whole world of physical stimulation, and those experiences overwhelm our minds with data screaming for attention. It is not surprising, therefore, that most people set their minds on earthly things. In fact, it would be fair to say that this is the default setting for most people. We live in a physical world, so our minds naturally tend to be pre-occupied with physical things.

But our minds are not bound to that sphere of reality. Unlike the animals, we can stare at a beautiful sunset, or a majestic mountain range, or the vast expanse of stars on a moonless night, and ponder the meaning of it all. Where did all this come from? Why is it here? Where will it all end up? More importantly, what is *my* role in this grand enterprise?

God’s word is addressed to people who choose to exercise their minds with that kind of questions. They sense there is—there *must* be—something beyond this physical world. Their minds are set on things above, and they long to have that spiritual hunger satisfied.

The world, then, is comprised of two types of people: those who set their minds on *earthly things*, and those who set their minds on *things above*. The contrast between these two modes of thinking carries enormous repercussions. Those who set their minds on earthly things will never rise above the fleeting, fading things of this world. Their decisions are guided largely by whatever feels good at the moment. Their fate is no different than that of the mundane matters with which their minds are so consumed: destruction.

Those who set their minds on things above, on the other hand, live in constant anticipation of a better life in a better place. God’s word excites them with thoughts of a life beyond the limitations of this one. They do not live with their heads in the clouds, as others suppose, but live each day as though eternity depends on it — because it does.

Every one of us has chosen to set our mind on *something*. That choice will determine the quality of life we live now, and of the life hereafter. Choose wisely.

– David King