

Areas in Which We Must Think Properly
(Hebrews 4:12)

Introduction:

1. This morning we examined several passages that relate to proper thinking.
2. Another important verse is Hebrews 4:12.
 - a. This verse describes God's Word.
 - b. One point made about God's Word is that it *"is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*
3. With this principle in mind, let us consider some specific "areas in which we must think properly."

Discussion:

- I. ABRAHAM TEACHES US TO THINK PROPERLY ABOUT GOD'S PROVIDENCE
 - A. God tested Abraham's faith in Genesis 22:1-2.
 - B. Abraham's response is revealed in vs.3-6.
 - C. In vs.7, Isaac asked his father a question.
 - D. Abraham expressed his confidence that God would provide a lamb in vs.8.
 - E. Additional passages that relate to God's providence are:
 1. Proverbs 3:5-6
 2. Romans 8:28.
- II. JOSEPH TEACHES US TO THINK PROPERLY TOWARD ABUSERS
 - A. According to Genesis 37:26-28, Joseph's brothers sold him as a slave.
 - B. In Egypt Joseph endured great hardship, but he became the 2nd ruler.
 - C. Joseph eventually faced his brothers in Egypt when they went there to buy grain.
 - D. Joseph's thoughts are revealed in Genesis 45:4-8; 50:19-21.
- III. DAVID TEACHES US TO THINK PROPERLY WHEN WE GRIEVE
 - A. As 2 Samuel begins, David learned that Saul died as he fought the Philistines.
 - B. Saul had tried a number of times to kill David.
 - C. As David expressed his grief, he remembered good things about Saul and Jonathan, and He did not reflect upon his bad experiences (vs.19, 23, 25, 27).
- IV. JESUS TEACHES US TO THINK PROPERLY ABOUT THE HARVEST
 - A. As Jesus fulfilled His ministry He faced some difficulties.
 1. (John 6:66) Many of His followers left Him.
 2. (John 8:59) The Jews wanted to stone Him.
 - B. In John 4:35, Jesus taught His followers a valuable lesson about the harvest.
- V. PAUL TEACHES US TO THINK PROPERLY ABOUT THE PAST AND THE FUTURE
 - A. Paul discussed his approach to dealing with the past and the future in Philippians 3:13-14.
 - B. In vs.15-17, he teaches us to follow his example.
- VI. PETER TEACHES US TO THINK PROPERLY ABOUT OUR INFLUENCE UPON FUTURE GENERATIONS
 - A. Peter knew that it is imperative for Christians to remember certain things.
 - B. According to 2 Peter 1:12-15, he wanted these things to be remembered after he was gone.
 - C. Although he knew he would soon die, he was concerned about others remembering the things he taught.

Conclusion:

1. As we endeavor to serve the Lord, let us remember how important "proper thinking" is.
2. Let us think properly in these specific areas, as well as others that are found in the Bible.