

Is Your Mind Set on the Things of God?

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➤ Intro:

- **Matt. 16:21-23** story, Peter rebuked by Jesus to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's.”

- Is your mind set on the things of God? – interests of God

➤ People are doing Satan's work, when they set stumbling blocks before us!

- **Matt. 16:23a** Peter was a stumbling block to Jesus – put a temptation in Jesus' path
- whenever someone puts a stumbling block in our path, they're doing Satan's work (minister)

- **Matt. 16:23a** therefore Jesus refers to Peter as “Satan”

- “Satan” means *adversary* – Peter was Jesus' adversary, thus on Satan's side

- anyone who puts a temptation in our path (stumbling block) is our adversary

- friends, co-workers, advertisers, music and tv people, false teachers, etc. – many people

- **Matt. 16:23a** therefore Jesus orders Peter to get behind

- **Matt. 4:10** similar to the order Jesus gave Satan when tempted on the mountain, “Go Satan”

- when someone puts a stumbling block before us (temptation), we should move them (order them) out of the way

➤ - 2 Cor. 6:14-17 remove the stumbling block, possibly the person, from our lives

- not bound together with unbelievers, no fellowship with darkness

➤ - **Matt. 16:21-22** Peter was trying to do a good thing, but he was a stumbling block

- saying.: the road to hell paved with good intentions

- just because someone has good intentions, they can still tempt you unintentionally

- illus.: a girl was raped, her best friend told her she learned in biology she could have an abortion and she wouldn't be killing a baby

- person may unknowingly teach, advise, live contrary to God's word – good intentions, stumbling block

➤ We are doing Satan's work, when our minds are set on the things of man!

- **Matt. 16:23b** Peter's mind was on the things of man (“interests” lit. means *the things of*)

- had worldly thoughts, not godly thoughts

➤ - Why were Peter's thought's worldly (the things of man)?

- **Matt. 16:21** Jesus explained what would happen, Peter reject – human logic and desire

- whenever we put human reasoning, logic, emotions, desires before God's word, our minds are set on the things of men

- illus.: the friend who told the raped girl okay to have abortion, informed by world, not Bible

- must be careful where we get our information - 2 Tim. 3:16-17

- must be careful who we believe - Rom. 1:16; 10:17

- **As a faithful Christian, your mind is set on the things of God!**
 - **Matt. 16:23b** set mind on things of God
 - Peter had momentary lapse – any time we sin, we've taken our mind off the things of God

- - **Col. 3:1-3, 5a, 10** raised, seek things above, set mind on things above, earthly body dead, new man, knowledge
 - **vs. 1** must be a Christian to set our minds on things of God (above)
 - can't "try" Christianity before becoming a Christian
 - **vs. 2** set: must set our mind on things of God, things above
 - **Heb. 12:1b-2a** athletic metaphor, run with endurance the race, fixing our eyes on Jesus
 - deliberate choice, willfully direct mind – What's your choice?
 - **Phil. 4:8-9** true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, good repute, excellence, worthy of praise, dwell on these things
 - **vs. 5** consider your earthly members dead
 - necessary attitude to set mind on things of God
 - **Gal. 2:20** been crucified with Christ, no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me
 - **vs. 10** knowledge: *epignosis* knowledge from God's word applied to your life, resulting in spiritual strength from God

- - **Col. 1:10-11** God empowers the people who obey gospel, set mind on things of God – *epignosis*

- - **1 Cor. 9:24-27** you are a spiritual Olympian (athlete)
 - set mind on obtaining crown of life, heaven, eternal life – **Col. 3:2**
 - remove all other distractions from mind, focus completely on everything must do
 - consider self dead to all other things – **Col. 3:5**
 - not care about other things of the world, or will get off track and pursue other things
 - knowledge – **Col. 3:10**
 - carefully study every aspect with of spirituality from God's word: obey, worship, live according to His word
 - **1 Cor. 9:24-27** live as an Olympian, exercise control in all things, reward, discipline, make body slave, so not disqualified

- **illus.: olympian (athlete)**
 - set mind on winning gold metal at Olympics – **Col. 3:2**
 - remove all other distractions from mind, focus completely on everything must do to win
 - consider self dead to all other things – **Col. 3:5**
 - not care about other things of the world, or will get off track and pursue other things
 - knowledge – **Col. 3:10**
 - carefully study every aspect with of sport: diet, physical and mental health, sports psychology, location of events, weather, competition, clothing and apparel, physical mechanics to make body perform at its peak, etc.
 - **1 Cor. 9:24-27** athletic metaphor (run, box) win, compete, exercise control in all things, reward, discipline, make body slave, so not disqualified
 - mind set on the things of God: focused, committed, exercising control in all things

➤ **You're paying a price, for setting your mind on the things of God!**

- **Matt. 16:24-26** deny self, take up cross, follow Jesus, lose life, not exchange soul

- **illus.: athletic metaphor** (spiritual athlete)

- **set mind on obtaining crown of life, heaven, eternal life – Col. 3:2**

- remove all other distractions from mind, focus completely on everything must do

- **consider self dead to all other things – Col. 3:5**

- not care about other things of the world, or will get off track and pursue other things

- **knowledge – Col. 3:10**

- carefully study every aspect with of spirituality from God's word: obey, worship, live according to His word

- **1 Cor. 9:24-27 live as an Olympian**, exercise control in all things, reward, discipline, make body slave, so not disqualified

- **Are you paying the price, to be a faithful Christian (spiritual athlete)?**

- **Phil. 3:7-14**

- count all things as loss for the sake of Christ, in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ, counting them as rubbish to gain Christ, and be found in Him

- pressing on to lay hold of eternal life

- pressing on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus

- **1 Cor. 9:23** do all things for the sake of the gospel

- **Jesus paid the price** for you to become a Christian and go to heaven, **but are you paying the price**

- **1 Pet. 1:18-19; Gal. 2:20**

- **2 Tim. 3:12**

➤ **You'll be rewarded, for paying the price and setting your mind on the things of God!**

- **Matt. 16:27** Jesus coming again, remain each man according to his deeds

- **the price Jesus paid, and the price you pay, are worth it**

➤ - **Col. 3:2, 4** if we set our minds on things of God (above), revealed with Christ in glory when He comes

- **2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Th. 4:14-17; 2 Th. 1:8-10; Rev. 2:10**

➤ **Summary / Inv.**

- **Is your mind set on the things of God?**

- **Are you paying the price?**

- **Are you look forward to the reward?**

- **inv.:** begin setting your mind on the things of God today

- **begin paying the price today / receive the promise of the reward today**