How Do You Think?

Intro: We are what we think, so says Solomon by inspiration: Pro. 23:7 “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.” Others come to know us by the way we think. Thus, we need to think properly.

I. HOW DO YOU THINK?
   A. Do you think evil thoughts?
      1. Pro. 15:26 “26 The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD: but the words of the pure are pleasant words.”
      2. Mat. 12:34 “34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.”
   B. Is your thinking righteous?
      1. Pro. 12:5 “5 The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit.”
      2. Phi. 4:8 “8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”
   C. God’s way of thinking is what is important.
      1. 1 Sam. 16:7 “7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart."
      2. Job 42:2 “1 I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee.”
      3. Isa. 55:8-9 “8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”
      4. Are your thoughts in line with God’s?

II. HOW DO YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST?
   A. There is a love and respect we are to have for all men.
      2. Mat. 22:39 “39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”
   B. There is a special love we are to have for our brethren.
      1. John 13:34-35 “34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”
      2. Rom. 12:10 “10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;”
      3. Heb. 13:1 “1 Let brotherly love continue.”
      4. 1 John 4:20 “20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?”
   C. We will act in certain ways relating to our love for our brethren:
      1. Mat. 7:1-5 “1 Judge not, that ye be not judged. 2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. 3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? 4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? 5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye.”
2. Causing trouble with others:
   a. While speaking of widows the principle is true regarding all: 1 Tim. 5:13 “And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.”
   b. Among the things God hates: Pro. 6:18 “An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,”

3. Yet, correcting them when wrong:
   a. Mat. 18:15-20 “Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. 16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. 17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. 18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. 19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”
   b. Gal. 6:1 “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”
   c. Jam. 5:19-20 “Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; 20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”

III. HOW DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE WICKEDNESS OF THE WORLD?

A. Consider some Bible examples:
   1. Noah and the flood.
      a. Gen. 6:5 “And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”
      b. Gen. 6:6-7 “And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. 7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.”
   2. Sodom and Gomorrah.
   3. Israel
      a. During the period of the judges.
      b. Both kingdoms of the divided kingdom.
   4. Surrounding nations.
      a. Assyria
      b. Babylon
      c. Syria
      d. Philistines, etc.

B. Some look to the world
   1. Lot’s wife’s thinking was back in Sodom; Luke 17:32 “Remember Lot’s wife.”
   2. Rom. 1:32 “Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”
   3. Phi. 3:18-19 “(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)”
4. Mat 15:19-20 “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashed hands defileth not a man.”

5. They love the world instead of God; 1 John 2:15 “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

IV. HOW DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS?

A. He will come personally, in the clouds.
1. Acts 1:9-11 “And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”

2. Every eye will see Him; Rev. 1:7 “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.”

B. No one knows when He will come:
1. Luke 12:40 “Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.”
2. Mat. 24:36 “But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.”
3. Mat. 25:13 “Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.”

C. What will happen:
1. Passages
   a. John 5:28-29 “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.”
   b. Mat. 13:49 “So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,”
   c. 1 Cor. 15:52 “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”
   d. 1 Thc. 3:13 “To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.”
   e. 1 Thc. 4:16 “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:”
   f. 2 Thc. 1:7-8, 10 “And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.”
   g. 2 Pet. 3:10 “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”

2. Summary
   a. Christ will come in the clouds.
   b. He will be glorified and admired by the saints.
   c. He will come as a ball of fire.
   d. He will come with His saints and an innumerable company of angels.
e. There will be a shout, the voice of the archangel, the trumpet sounds, the dead are raised and given an incorruptible body and the righteous transformed.

f. The elements will melt and the heavens will pass away.

D. All will stand before Him in judgment.
   1. Mat. 25:31-32 "31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: 32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:"
   2. 2 Cor. 5:10 "10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."
   3. Final separation takes place;
      a. Mat. 25:32 "32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:"
      b. Into one’s eternal abode; Mat. 25:34, 41 "34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:… 41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:"

Conclusion: It is important to think right. While Naaman said, “Behold I thought” (2 Kin. 5:11 "11 But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper.”), he was never going to be healed until he got his thinking right. We need to think right about Jesus as our Savior and our obedience to Him. If you have not obeyed Him, why not now?