Becoming a Thinking Christian - Part 1.

By David Raby - Jan 2026

The subject of this talk, '**Becoming a Thinking Christian**' is not meant in a negative way but is intended as a challenge.

Its focus is on developing and strengthening YOUR faith, which, you remember, has already been established upon the firm foundation of God's Word.

This unchanging foundation is the bedrock for the Christian to build their life upon and that includes the way we think as Christians.

Ephesians 2:20 says that we *"are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone."*

- There is no surer foundation and cornerstone than Christ Himself. Upon Him we rest secure in His **love**, **power** and **wisdom**, and, most importantly, because Christ lives 'in' us, He wants to live 'through' us in our thinking and behaviour.

Now, in previous talks we have looked at developing a Christian 'mindset'.

Developing this mindset means that we must cultivate analytical and critical skills to understand and apply God's word correctly and to discern errors, including doctrinal errors and man's philosophical theories, which can easily mislead Christians today.

In 2 Timothy 2:15 we read "Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

- The words Paul uses to **rightly divide the word of truth** is that of a farmer ploughing a field. The plough must be aligned correctly to ensure the furrows are straight. Careful preparation maximises the harvest and the outcome.

Crooked furrows will be all over the place, typifying Christians whose doctrine is mis-aligned and misplaced. **Poor theology produces spiritually immature Christians**.

To develop into a thinking Christian we need **God's Word** and the **Holy Spirit,** which we already have, and **wisdom**, of which we don't have enough. Hence the role of the God's Spirit and His Word to help us grow in Christ.

- Now the apostle Paul has much to say about **wisdom** in the first chapter of **1 Corinthians**.

In verses 17 - 18 the apostle Paul wrote *"Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with **wisdom** of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."*

Now foolishness is the exact opposite of wisdom.

And in verse 30 we read: *"But of him you are in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us **wisdom**, and **righteousness**, and **sanctification**, and **redemption**."*

In this epistle, we see that **the consequences** of **Biblical wisdom** is that it produces **Biblical thinking** of which we then learn to apply in our **growing Christian life**.

- We Christians must not fall into the common trap of advising others **before** we have got our own lives sorted out. We must learn the Biblical principles of discipleship and discipline and apply those principles to our own life so that we can grow in wisdom and mature.

The new life we received in Christ can be seen in the **transforming work of the Holy Spirit in us** and in **other spiritual qualities** such as those described in **Galatians 5:22-25**. It is this that provides genuine evidence for the divine life we now possess.

So, to be a **thinking Christian** we must never leave our brains outside the church door! We must never hand over our thinking for someone else to do.

Our **MIND**, our **THINKING** as well as our **BODIES** must be under the control of the Holy Spirit.

- A crucial element for the thinking Christian is seen in **Colossians 3:2, where we read:** *Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth*.

We are to **set our minds**, we are to **fix our gaze**, we are to **focus our attention** on the realities of things above, for God has established heavenly matters as the priorities of eternity.

Our earthly jobs produce earthly results, but working for the Master produces eternal results.

This does not mean that we neglect earthly matters, but we are to keep a proper perspective in view of our high calling in Christ.

- **In Philippians 3:14** Paul says: *I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus*.

So we believers are to see everything, including earthly things, against the backdrop of eternity.

That requires **wisdom** and **critical thinking** to make sure that we make the right decisions and choose correctly.

1 Thessalonians 5:21 we read *"but **test** all things. Hold fast to what is good."*

- In other words, make sure you know exactly what believe and what you accept as true and know the difference between **divine wisdom** and mere **human wisdom**, between that which is **'good'** and that which is **'false'**.

Sometime the difference can be very difficult to discern.

Now it is Biblical wisdom that produces Biblical thinking and that is translated into godly behaviour which is the **fruit of the Holy Spirit** - that's Galatians 5 truth again.

This stands in stark contrast to the way we once thought and behaved along with the fruits of the flesh we exhibited **before** we were saved.

So the growing Christian must know **'how'** to think. **However, the highly evolutionised educational system of this world teaches people '<u>what</u>' to think instead of '<u>how</u>' to think**.

One of the major symptoms of a Christian under the harmful influence of this evolutionised educational system is the **Theistic Evolutionary mindset.** We have covered in previous sessions.

- **Although this Christian believes God's Word, he has made the decision that it is not complete. To correct this he reads man's changing ideas into the Biblical text of how the universe started and how life began on earth all the way up to the evolution of man himself.**

This person is **<u>not</u>** a thinking Christian. If he was, he would not decide to be a judge over God's Word and decide it is deficient in some way and then correct this deficiency by adding man's corrupt and sinful theories to it.

Let me say this clearly. No amount of Human wisdom has ever illuminated the pure word of God.

- Human wisdom tends to obscure and mislead. Keep to God unchanging Word and seek illumination there. That is why we should '**test**' all things.

Now when Christians approach God's creation through the Biblical lens of Holy Scripture, they can understand and apply real science and sound reasoning from a Biblical perspective along with its timescales.

Understanding our world from a Biblical perspective provides the overall framework for understanding the sciences of **biology**, **physics**, **chemistry**, **ecology** etc.

- Our understanding of our world must start with **the God of the Bible** who created all things and He graciously told us how He did it.

However, for over 150 years man's evolutionary theories have been exalted above God's word, consequently the clear waters of sound reasoning have been mudded.

When we see man's reasoning in action **without divine restraint**, we find a catalogue of errors and myths including conspiracy theories, flying saucer theories, alien interventions, canals of water on the planet Mars, flat earth proponents, spontaneous generation errors and the belief that the universe and all life on earth is a giant accident, having no purpose or meaning.

- This ensures that those taken up with these matters are seriously mislead and may become highly pessimistic and cynical when their cherished theory is found out to be fabricated through human invention and ingenuity.

Even Einstein came up with a theory called the **Static Universe** which was later demonstrated to be false. There are many other false theories out there.

However, when we go to the Bible, we see that God is a God of **order**, that He created the universe to demonstrate His **divine mind**, **power**, **glory** and **wisdom**, therefore the world we live in is **logical**, **understandable**, **explainable** and **under His control**, exactly as detailed in His Word.

But do you remember the words of the deceiver in the garden of Eden, who said ***"did God say?"*** He wants to cause doubt in the mind of Christians and lead them away from His Word and to deceive the ungodly into committing more sin.

One of the outcomes of centuries of deception is that many people have become sceptical about the basic facts of science, about God and about the origin of man and life on earth.

This is aided by a loss of confidence in sources of authority that were once dependable such as academia and scientific institutions.

- Sadly, this can also be said of many churches which once upheld the authority of the Bible, but, at the suggestion of Satan, have thrown that overboard and have become blind leaders of the blind. The outcome of this is truly terrible.

So where do we go to for absolute truth and authority to find answers to life's big questions?

The evolutionist has not got an answer to that question. In his reasoning there is **no** absolute truth or authority, so he has to come up with his own answers and put that against everybody else's answers. **Remember what I said about letting others do your thinking**.

However, the Christian has the certainty of God's unchanging Word, and he can rest with confidence upon it.

But the evolutionist and secularist only has the uncertainty of man's opinions, which keep on changing rather like the weather.

So questions such as **"Is the earth billions of years old?" "Did humans evolve from ape-like ancestors?" "How did life first arise on this primordial planet"**, etc, all have radically differing answers depending upon which opinion or source of authority they go to.

To take this further, most big questions about life's origin can be placed into one of two categories: **operational science** or **historical science**.

- Modern operational science was pioneered by Christian creationists, and, it is important to understand, that it deals with things that can be directly **observed**, **tested**, and **repeated**.

Now that is true science. Science that is observable, testable and repeatable.

A totally different category to questions about **origins, or where we came from** has to do with **historical science**, and the history that evolutionists talk about goes so far back in time that no one was around to observe or record it.

- Hence it is more of a 'philosophy of science' due to its reliance upon human opinion and wisdom as unsaved scientists attempt to interpret the past.

Now the subjects of **Evolution** and **Creation** fall into the realm of **historical science** which attempts to deal with the past of which God's Word explains.

If God's word is rejected as 'foolishness', the evolutionist is faced with an insurmountable problem in trying to find out what happened in the distant past using his own intelligence.

Using the mechanism of science by observing, testing and by repeat experiment evolutionists find that they cannot observe or repeat the distant past. This includes **the so called 'Big Bang'**.

Neither can they create precise conditions that existed in the past because no one was there to observe earth's global environment or the conditions that supposedly gave rise to life in the beginning.

The only evidence that they can use to try and substantiate their point is the fossil and rock record.

- However, **critical thinking** reasons that fossils and rocks do **not** exist in in the past, they exist in the present. Fossil hunters do not dig up the past they dig up the 'present'. This is an important observation.

Whatever past conditions on earth that left those fossils and laid down the rock layers, that event has gone. When they dig up fossils, they dig up the present, and this is where it becomes **dangerous** for those who reject God's word and deny Biblical history.

From a Biblical perspective, fossil layers are not a record of life evolving over eons of time but a record of death and destruction over a very short time.

The fossil record is a warning to sinful mankind. They bear record to the global flood of judgement in Noah's day, a flood that wiped out sinful humanity apart from Noah's family.

- Those who perished in the flood rejected God's word and those who reject God's word today are in a similar predicament.

Sadly, the wisdom of man will never accept the living testimony of Scripture because it is foolishness to him.

Now in 1st Corinthians, Paul contrasts the cleverness of human wisdom that uses impressive eloquence and fine sounding words. Politicians and philosophers are good at this; it makes them look more important. Apes are also good at this. By beating their chests, it makes them look stronger and more impressive. This helps the ape to get the message across to others.

- Humans like to dress up their message with expensive, professionally produced media productions costing many thousands. Their message is beefed up and inflated to impress the masses.

With carefully worked out choreographics they look like super stars. By beefing up their **image** their message has more impact.

This is contrasted with the true wisdom that is only found in God's Word and the transforming power of the Cross of Christ.

Humans do not add one spec of power and authority to God's Word.

So the faithful teacher of God's Word **must not resort** to the same techniques used by apes, politicians, orators and chief executives of big businesses.

It is not the preacher himself or any authority he may have that adds any weight or importance to God's Word or its power to save.

Proclaiming God's word is a spiritual function through the work of God's Spirit.

The Gospel is about Christ, His power to save and the transforming life through repentance and confession of Christ as Lord and Saviour.

- The moment the preacher exalts himself or puts himself in redemptions picture, all power is lost, confusion results, the unsaved go away unsaved. Furthermore, God's people are never blessed or edified by image inflating speakers with a huge ego.

Now to the unsaved, the God's wisdom seen in the power of the cross, in Christ's death, burial and resurrection and in the way God has inspired His word to be communicated is ridiculous and foolish in their thinking.

This is the wisdom of the world in action. It is wisdom that comes from the depths of the unregenerate heart of man. This is the same heart and mind that produces evolutionary thinking.

- Defective thinking, clever arguments to support that thinking and impressive oratory speech produces **nothing** for God.

It cannot cleanse one single sin; it cannot make the sinner right with God or save him from the flames of hell. It stands as a warning.

In the end, the very best that human wisdom can produce is highly educated people but with lives that are empty and void of any true meaning.

- But salvation is a divine work, and the gospel is a diving message that alone saves and transforms the sinner into a saint, it transforms the rebel into a child of God and a loyal disciple of Christ. **It is God's Word that is powerful!**

It is through the power and wisdom of God that the sinner is transformed from being a blasphemer with a corrupt mind into a person that seeks to glorify his Saviour with a **sound mind**. **That is the power of Salvation's message.**

- In Mark 5 we read that when the people from the region of Gardara saw the demonic possessed man healed by the Lord, they saw the man *"sitting, clothed and in his right mind."* This man had a new beginning and was set free from the powers of darkness.

This is true of every sinner saved by grace.

Now concerning **your** Christian life, **in 2 Corinthians 5:17 we read:** *"if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation". We also read that "the old has passed away. Behold, the new has come!"*

Notice that "*the old has passed away, the new has come!*".

Now when someone passes away it is normally a time of sadness. But for the Christian their **old life** has passed away, it is a time of celebration, a time of rejoicing!

It should be a daily rejoicing because we have new life in Christ that is real and powerful every single day! **Dear Christian, do you understand this?**

God took away your old life and He gave you eternal life in Christ. It is not your old life regurgitated or improved, but Christ's resurrection life that has been imparted to you.

It is Christ's victorious life that you possess.

We are more than conquerors in our new life in Christ.

- Notice again where true wisdom is found - learning God's Word and walking with the risen Christ who lives in us.

In Psalm 119:11 we read *"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."*

Put God's Word in your heart. From there it will guide your thinking, give you wisdom and direct your path in this crooked world.

In 1 Corinthians 2: 4 & 5 Paul says that:

*"my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power. That your faith should not stand in the **wisdom** of men, but in the **power** of God."*

- Human wisdom then, played no part in your salvation, no part in your sanctification and it plays no part in your spiritual life and development.

In fact, the world and all its philosophies add absolutely nothing to your spiritual life and fellowship with God.

With regard to spiritual life and abundant joy that is yours in Christ, this world is a parched desert giving no sustenance at all.

- As previously discussed, the evolutionised educational system teaches people '**what**' to think instead of **'how'** to think.

Blind faith and unswerving obedience to unproven human reasoning is enforced in academia.

Students are encouraged to support naturalism, follow the dogma, obey the evolutionary creed which insists that all life arose accidentally.

This is blind faith in action and unswerving trust in man's knowledge.

- In this arena, students are encouraged to have confidence in the so-called 'superior' knowledge and wisdom of evolutionary teachers and naturalistic reasoning which, of course, must not be questioned.

The student is expected to listen and follow this dogma with unswerving obedience! This is what we see in academia today.

Now the student may be allowed to question the mechanisms of evolution but must never call into question the so-called '**fact**' of evolution itself.

This type of shady practice does not follow the methodology of genuine, investigative science, because genuine science is about observing, testing, measuring and repeat experimentation to enable evidence to be verified independently.

• However, if the minds of experts have been moulded by evolutionary philosophy, so that they can only reason on a naturalistic level, their thinking will be highly biased towards evolution and a rejection of the Creator and His word.

So how can the unsaved who reject God, judge scientific evidence impartially? Especially considering that the only viable option to evolution is creation by a Creator.

That option is untenable to the unsaved and that is the main reason why they are determined to prove evolution **no matter where the evidence leads**.

Remember Paul's words in **Romans 12:2,** that we are "*not to conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our mind*".

• For the Christian, God's word through the Holy Spirit transforms our way of thinking which in turn transforms our behaviour, our language and the way we understand our world. We see and understand things from our Creator's perspective.

However, the world wants to conform us and mould us to its way of thinking by developing in us a secular, evolutionary mindset based only upon naturalistic outcomes over vast timescales.

This thinking ensures that the origin and existence of mankind, every baby, every child, every man and woman is only a trivial accident in an uncaring universe which does not have the slightest concern whether we exist or not.

• Can you see the love of the Creator in that philosophy? Does it provide a good foundation to build a family or a caring society?

Obviously, the Christian must not conform to this way of thinking because it is sinful, godless and dangerous.

In Colossians 2:8 we read "*Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*" How important it is to realise that our faith is not based upon human wisdom but upon the sure foundation of God's Word.

• In previous discussions we have considered a number of Biblical truths that are fundamental to every Christian who wants to develop and grow in Christ.

The Christian is the only person on this planet that has a unique life. A life that came directly from Christ Himself:

John 1:12-13 *as many as received him (Christ), to them he gave the power, (the right) to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. Who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God*.

In Part 2 of Becoming a Thinking Christian we will dig further into Biblical Truths and Wisdom that empower us from our old way of thinking into 'Biblical Thinkers' who are effective for the Lord.

Thank you.

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