

With All Thy Mind

I. Introduction: The goal of this lesson is to help us understand that examining all things before reaching a conclusion is right (**Romans 12:1-2**).

A. There are many reasons people have “religious beliefs” that are not rooted in true seeking (note a few and why they are misguided)...

1. Emotions dangerously lead some people (**Proverbs 28:26** and **Jeremiah 17:9-10**).
2. The need for a false sense of security lead some (**Micah 3:9-12**).
3. Real calamity (**Ecclesiastes 9:11-12** and **John 16:33**) can cause people to seek (i.e. Israel of old; **Hosea 4:15**).
4. To socialize carnally; which is not spiritual at all (**Romans 14:17** and **Ephesians 4:15-16**).
5. Because of human traditions that have become or were formed by false “religious” conclusions (**Mark 7:1-13** and **Colossians 2:4-8**).
6. On the other hand, there have been times when no one was seeking (**Psalms 53:1-3**). But, we...

B. Initially, we [saints] knew there is some Creator or greater power than human beings and we sought to find the truth (**Acts 17:16-33**).

1. Even without a law or knowledge of a spiritual law, man has a conscience and a knowledge of right or wrong (**Romans 2:12-16**).
2. Some knowledge is natural (**I Corinthians 11:14-15**).
3. Creation is His testimony (**Psalms 19:1-7**).

II. Body: As True Seekers; Love God With Our Intellect (**Mark 12:28-34**).

A. Examining the word translated “mind” (**Mark 12:30**)...

1. Defined: “deep thought, properly, the faculty (mind or its disposition), by implication, its exercise: — imagination, mind, understanding. The mind as a faculty of understanding, feeling, desiring; understanding; mind, i.e. spirit, way of thinking and feeling; thoughts, either good or bad” (Strong’s # 1271).
2. Other ways this word is translated: **Luke 1:51** [imagination], **Ephesians 1:18** [understanding], **Ephesians 4:18** [understanding], and **I John 5:20** [understanding].
3. Contextually, the scribe understood that Jesus meant “understanding” (**Mark 12:32-33**).

B. God wants His followers to understand [to put together, i.e. (mentally) to comprehend] (**Ephesians 5:15-17**).

1. Do you KNOW and are you FULLY persuaded [convinced] (**II Timothy 1:8-12**)?
2. Some express conviction, but still have doubts (**John 6:66-69**, **John 16:30-32**, and **Matthew 28:17**).

3. Don't use; "For we walk by faith, not by sight" (**II Corinthians 5:7**) as some marching cry to justify blind following...

C. Real faith is in the evidence (**Hebrews 11:1**) and the process of coming to evidence takes time and effort.

1. Research, make observations, ask questions (**John 5:30-47**, **John 10:22-38**, and **I Corinthians 15:1-11**).

2. Form an initial finding that you will not conclude with until you have thoroughly tested it (**John 1:19-29**; cf. **Luke 7:11-23**).

3. Honestly scrutinize your initial findings (**Matthew 17:1-13** and **I Corinthians 10:15**) and don't feel the need to hide it (**John 18:20** and **Acts 26:22-29**).

4. Test it out (**I Thessalonians 5:21**) without fearing the scrutiny others may bring to the matter (**I Corinthians 14:29**; **14:37**).

a. One reads a Scripture that says "not given to much wine" (**Titus 2:3**) and initially thinks a little wine could be okay. That conclusion is bolstered when reading Jesus turned water into wine (**John 2:1-11**) or Paul's advice to Timothy (**I Timothy 5:23**).

b. First, applying reason, if one said "not given to much fornication" would that authorize a little fornication? Then, about Jesus, could He have been innocent by providing the stumbling stone of alcohol to people (**Habakkuk 2:15**)? If alcohol is harmless, put it in your baby's bottle...

c. Then further study, about alcohol, reveals "wine" can just be grapes (**Isaiah 65:8**).

d. Further studies teaches sobriety (**I Thessalonians 5:6**, **Titus 2:2-4**, **I Peter 1:13**, etc.).

e. Though the initial finding is already not solid, further study reveals alcohol is to be avoided for various reasons (**Proverbs 20:1**, **Proverbs 21:17**, **Proverbs 23:20-21**, **Proverbs 23:29-35**, **Proverbs 31:4-5**, **Isaiah 5:11**, **Isaiah 5:22**, **Hosea 4:11**, **Matthew 26:41**, **Luke 21:33-34**, **Galatians 5:16-21**, **Titus 2:11-14**, **I Peter 4:1-5**, etc.).

f. Time to adjust... One cannot consistently and logically think the Scriptures authorize consumption of alcohol.

5. Adjust your initial findings based upon what you have found through testing them out (**Luke 24:13-35**).

6. Does everything add up to an unmistakable conclusion with no other possible conclusion (example of a failure; **John 21:20-23**)?

7. When you form that final conclusion, even if your initial findings were right, are you now SURE (**John 4:1-42**)?

III. Conclusion: Don't fear putting things to the test (**Ephesians 5:10**)!