



DISCOVERING REVELATION

The Ultimate Mind Game

Have you ever gotten a computer virus? It can wreak havoc with your personal computer and change the way it performs! A virus introduces a malicious code into your system with devastating results. It can be very costly. What if someone were trying to hack their way into your *mind* to change the way you think? How costly would that be?

In 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, Paul points out that the biggest battlefield in the universe is your mind, because your mind is the place where you make moral decisions and choose your allegiances. Someone is trying to gain access to your mind! How do you protect yourself?

Paul gives us a simple yet valuable “anti-virus” program: Is every thought captive to an obedient life in Christ? He gives similar advice in Philippians 4:8, advising us to think only on things that are pure and honest. Keep your “hard drive” clean and uncluttered.

Why does Paul give this advice? Because he knew that there is a war being waged for your mind. Jesus warned us in Matthew 6:24 that we cannot serve more than one master. Our minds are designed to run in only one direction. If you try to go in two directions at once, according to James 1:8, you will become unstable.

If you load a home computer with a lot of conflicting information, it starts to run slowly and becomes unstable. Your mind works much the same way. You can’t fill it with both pure and corrupt thoughts at the same time and expect to carry on without any problems (Matthew 12:35). And in 1 John 5:4, we read that it is our duty as Christians to *overcome* the world through faith.

So how does harmful information get into our minds? The Bible tells us in 1 John 2:15 that there are three primary areas of temptation the devil uses to get to us: (1) the lust of the flesh, (2) the lust of the eyes, and (3) the pride of life. Every temptation imaginable can be categorized as falling into one of these three broad categories.

As Christians, we need to be able to assess ourselves honestly. The devil tries to corrupt our thought processes through our senses—and two of the senses through which he especially seems to be working in the modern world are the senses of hearing and sight. Let’s explore that for a moment.

In Proverbs 23:12 and Proverbs 22:17, we read that our ears were given to us for the purpose of gathering wisdom. Let’s be honest: How much of what the world listens to today for entertainment would honestly fall into the category of wisdom? Not much! And when you set wrong thoughts to music, it’s all that much easier to plant them in your mind. That is why advertising jingles are so effective.

Most of what is broadcast on television today isn’t much better than what is on the radio. Sexual immorality and violence have become a standard part of most television and movie entertainment. Even

Christians are watching things they wouldn't have dreamed of watching just a generation ago. Yet the Bible warns in Psalm 101:2, 3 that God's people should set no wicked thing before their eyes!

Some people argue that what we listen to and what we watch doesn't really affect the way we think. Why is it, then, that major corporations are willing to pay millions of dollars for mere seconds of television advertising time? It is because they understand what many Christians are loathe to admit—what you watch can change how you think!

It is not an issue of all or nothing. You don't have to throw out your TV or radio if you can control your exposure. (Although, if you find you can't control it, it just might be better to get rid of it!) The Bible doesn't necessarily call for complete abstinence—it calls for *discernment*. Philippians 4:8 provides some excellent guidelines for what the Christian ought to listen to, read or watch.

There is another area of temptation that moves away from our senses and deals more with our appearance. The Bible refers to it as the *pride of life*. This is the Bible's warning to keep life simple, and to keep our eyes on Christ rather than self.

We have been made ambassadors of Christ. What a privilege! Wouldn't you like the world to notice the difference He has made in your life?