

Ouachita Baptist University

Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

Vaught Sermon Notes: Hebrews

W.O. Vaught Archive

5-20-1979

God Enthroned in the Mind

W. O. Vaught

Ouachita Baptist University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/vn_hebrews



Part of the [Biblical Studies Commons](#), and the [Liturgy and Worship Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Vaught, W. O., "God Enthroned in the Mind" (1979). *Vaught Sermon Notes: Hebrews*. 95.
https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/vn_hebrews/95

This Sermon Notes is brought to you for free and open access by the W.O. Vaught Archive at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Vaught Sermon Notes: Hebrews by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact mortensona@obu.edu.

GOD ENTHRONED IN THE MIND

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS
NUMBER 98
HEBREWS 11:13

Dr. W. O. Vaught
Immanuel Baptist Church
Little Rock, Arkansas

Before we go on, let us get a corrected translation of verses 11 and 12.

Verse 11

"By means of doctrine resident in the soul, even Sarah herself received sexual ability for the deposit of a seed, though she was beyond the proper time for conception, because she concluded faithful the one who had promised her."

Verse 12

"Therefore, from the source of one hopeless couple was born Isaac and these same ones having become sexually dead (in contrast to the promise of Genesis 15:5) just as the stars of the heaven in number and the sand which is by the lip of the sea innumerable."

Verse 13 "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." This is a mental attitude verse, and because it is so important, we are going to make a detour over into Philippians to pick up the doctrine of mental attitude.

PHILIPPIANS 3:15 "Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you." In this passage Paul will illustrate the inner ingredients of super grace. We begin with the phrase, "Let us therefore, as many as be mature." "Therefore" is an inferential particle from oun and it refers to that which we have just studied in verses 10 through 14 where we are commanded to seize and hold the high ground. Then we have hosos which means "as many as" and this refers to quality super grace believers. The word translated "perfect" is the nominative masculine plural adjective of teleios and should be translated "are the mature ones." We can now put in the words "Let us" because this is a part of the subjunctive mood coming up in the present, active, subjunctive of phroneo and it means "let us think objectively." We saw Sarah thinking subjectively under dokeo and this is in contrast to that kind of thinking for this is objective thinking.

Objective Thinking

This is the kind of thinking God always does. This is the kind of thinking that is based on truth, based on all the facts. Objective thinking causes one to consider all the alternatives and then take the right road. The Mind of Christ always leads us to objective thinking. This present, active, subjunctive of phroneo is a retroactive present—it means something happened in the past and the results continue to the present time. The active voice means the super grace believer produces the action of objective thinking. The subjunctive mood means the writer (Paul) invites us to join him in a course of action. In other words, don't become subjective in your thinking. Subjunctive thinking includes all the mental attitude sins like jealousy, pride, bitterness, implacability, etc. It is also manifest by pettiness,

vengeance, and hate. Subjective thinking causes us to try to hurt others. This is the kind of thinking that causes us to hold things over people's heads so they will conform or cater to us. All of this is human viewpoint. This is the kind of living that causes you to scheme and plan with cleverness to advance yourself over others. One illustration is to be nice to people you can't stand so you can advance yourself. But the super grace believer must always think objectively. Doctrine must become the guiding factor in all your thinking and your decisions.

So we have thus far in this verse "Therefore as many as are mature (super grace types) let us continue objective thinking."

THE DOCTRINE OF MENTAL ATTITUDE

1. DEFINITION.

The soul is made up of:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| a. Self-consciousness | d. Conscience |
| b. Mentality | e. Emotion |
| c. Volition | f. Old Sin Nature |

Here in the soul, you will notice that we have mentality. This is the seat of thinking. Here is the frame of reference, the memory center, norms and standards, and vocabulary. All thought impulses originate here. Viewpoint comes as a result of this kind of thinking. Human viewpoint is the expression of cosmic norms and standards of life. The exact opposite of this is the expression of biblical norms and standards.

2. THINKING IS THE REAL PERSONALITY.

Who are you? What are you? You are not your physical appearance. You are not your clothes. You are not what is seen externally. How you look or appear or smell is not the real you. The real you is what you think. Your thinking is your real personality. Mental attitude determines both the character and the life-style of a person. (This word life-style is sort of a new word and I thought I would throw it in here. Some people just go bananas over a new expression even though many times they don't know what it means.)

PROVERBS 23:6-7 "Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats: For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee."

This says, "Do not eat the bread of a selfish man, or desire his delicacies." If a man is stingy or selfish in his soul, he is a little and immature man.

Verse 7 says, "For as he thinks in his soul, so is he."

He is a selfish man. He is a stingy man, and if you sit down with him and eat his bread, it kills him. If he has to pick up the check, it almost gives him a heart attack. He might lose one of his "Buffalo Nickels." We have the words, "For he says to you, eat and drink, but his right lobe is not with you."

Illustration

As an illustration take the egotistical, arrogant male who think that all women are just wild about him. Here is a woman who really thinks he is a jerk but she agrees to date him. Inside of her she says, "Jerk!" but outwardly she is nice to him. He is going to wine and dine her, even though he is arrogant and

egotistical. While they are together one of his jerk friends comes over to visit him and she thinks within her mind, "Two Jerks." Nevertheless, the woman goes along for the ride. He thinks he is making real progress but the hypocritical woman still thinks he is a jerk. He thinks she has him on a high pedestal but the moment he is gone and the door closes, she thinks, "Jerk!" He is egotistical and she is hypocritical and both flunk the test of life for the real person doesn't come out in either case. YOU SEE, THE REAL TROUBLE IS THAT BOTH OF THEM ARE LIVING SUBJECTIVELY. They never shift into objective living. They are naive enough to believe that people don't actually know what is going on in their minds. All this man would have had to do to find out what this woman really thinks about him was for him to make her real mad. Quite quickly the truth would have come out. Get a woman angry and she will always spill the truth. In her anger, she would have said, "You little jerk!" and in one moment, she would have revealed what is really in her mind.

A Phoney Facade

So many people put on a facade and actually never do get to reality. The real person is what you think. Masculinity is not in the physical body but it is what is actually between the ears in the mind. Reality is in the soul. This fits right in with the Christian life. Christ changes the inner man. Christ changes the thinking pattern. Neither muscle or physiology or symmetry or beauty of body has anything to do with genuine greatness. (Be sure to write that clearly in your mental notes.)
 MENTAL ATTITUDE IS WHAT MAKES A PERSON GREAT.

A Popular Misconception

Look at the popular misconception we have in this country. We almost worship entertainers and stars. Actors or actresses or dancers are put in a class by themselves and people fall all over themselves bowing to them. They get money for entertaining people but when you get in to see what they are actually like, you will find they are not genuine. They spend their lives pretending to be something they are not. Yet we keep on worshipping entertainers or people of this kind. When these people come around, we literally fall at their feet. For a person to pretend to be something which he isn't makes him a nothing. When you get close to them, you discover they are nothing. They are in the top money bracket, they get drunk on approbation, they can't live without people always telling them how great they are. But the reason for their popularity is that society has lost track of the fact that greatness is in the soul. Many people in the entertainment business spend a lot of time having no soul.

Lay It On The Line

Proverbs 23:6-7 lays it right on the line. It takes great character to know how to save money or to spend money. Look at four main things about these two great verses.

1. They portray hypocrisy as a background for a principle--it pictures a stingy man having to share and hating every minute of it.
2. In his soul, he thinks reality but overtly and outwardly he lives like a hypocrite.
3. In these two verses the real person is not the one who offers you the hospitality but the real person is the one who thinks.
4. What goes on in the soul is what the person is really like.

3. THE CONFLICT OF MENTAL ATTITUDE IN A BELIEVER.

(Isaiah 55:6-9)

ISAIAH 55:6 "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:" This is an admonition to a believer. This is a call to positive volition here and now. "Call upon him while he is near." This is not primarily a verse on evangelism but on positive mental attitude toward doctrine.

Verse 7 "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." This is a call to forsake negative volition toward doctrine. This is human viewpoint in contrast to divine viewpoint. "Let him turn" and this is the reversionist recovering by positive volition. This is not a salvation verse but restoration to fellowship. He is admonished to get back in the bottom circle.

Verse 8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord." Here is where we see the whole turn of everything is on mental attitude. My thoughts (human viewpoint) are not your thoughts (divine viewpoint).

Verse 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." This clearly pictures the conflict which rages in the soul and it is human thinking opposed to God's thinking.

4. THE COMMAND TO DIVINE VIEWPOINT.

Since the Bible is the mind of Christ, attitude toward doctrine determines your viewpoint in life.

PHILIPPIANS 2:5 "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:" This is a command to keep on having this mental attitude in you which was also in Christ Jesus. This command is obeyed when we take in maximum doctrine into the soul.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:4-6

Verse 4 "(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)" This verse literally says, "For the equipment and weapons for our conflict are not human attributes, but attributes of inherent power in the soul through God for the destruction of Satan's fortifications."

Verse 5 "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" We become aggressive once we get doctrine in the soul. "Assaulting and demolishing cosmic thoughts (human viewpoint) and every obstacle of pride which attacks against the objective knowledge of God, and making a priority of every human system of thought to the authority of Christ."

Verse 6 "And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled." "Holding in readiness (resident doctrine) to punish all deviation (human viewpoint) from obedience (reversionistic human viewpoint) when your obedience has been fulfilled."

5. RAPPORT IN THE FAMILY OF GOD IS BASED ON DIVINE VIEWPOINT.
PHILIPPIANS 2:2 "Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." This says literally, "Fill up the deficiency with my inner happiness that you keep on thinking the same type of thing (divine viewpoint) having the same love soul-rapport in thinking. (This can only come from the divine viewpoint of life.)"

6. THE FUNCTION OF THE ROYAL PRIESTHOOD (CHURCH AGE SAINTS) DEMANDS A NEW MENTAL ATTITUDE.
2 TIMOTHY 1:7 "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." "But God hath not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of sound judgment." This is the royal family of God with maximum doctrine in the soul.
ROMANS 12:2 "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." This verse says literally, "Stop being conformed to this world but be ye transformed--How?--by the renewing of your thinking, that ye may prove what is the will of God (namely) that the will of God is good, acceptable and perfect."

7. DIVINE VIEWPOINT FROM DOCTRINE PRODUCES CONFIDENCE.
 This will anticipate Hebrews 11:13.
2 CORINTHIANS 5:1 "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." This says literally, For we know (doctrine in the mind) if the earthly tent (our physical bodies) is torn down (death) we have a building from God (resurrection bodies) a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."
 What you know in your mind makes a difference in death and heaven." You don't know when you will die, but you need to have a biblical attitude toward death for it will develop for you the right mental attitude toward life.
2 CORINTHIANS 5:6 "Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:" It literally says, "We know, we keep having confidence, that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord."
2 CORINTHIANS 5:7 "(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)" "For we walk by doctrine resident in the soul, not by sight."
2 CORINTHIANS 5:8 "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."
 "We keep on having confidence, I say and take mental delight that to be absent from the body is to be at home with the Lord."
 We know, and out of that comes confidence.
 DIVINE VIEWPOINT FROM DOCTRINE PRODUCES CONFIDENCE FOR LIFE AND FOR DEATH AND FOR ETERNITY.

8. AREAS OF LIFE INVOLVING MENTAL ATTITUDE.
 - a. Stability.
 Stability is a mental attitude. Mental attitude stability creates stability in all areas of life.
JAMES 1:8 "A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways."
 Instability is not what you do but what you think. Instability is an attitude of soul.

- b. Prosperity.
Prosperity is a mental attitude.
PHILIPPIANS 4:7 "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." "And the prosperity from God transcending human comprehension shall garrison your right lobes and left lobes by means of Jesus Christ."
- c. Giving
Giving is a mental attitude.
2 CORINTHIANS 9:7 "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give, not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." This says literally, "Each one according as he has determined, by means of his right lobe so give, not out from distress of mind (pressure) nor from compulsion of emotions, for the God keeps on loving the gracious giver."
- d. Worldliness.
ROMANS 12:2 "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." This verse says the renewing of your mental attitude is the way to defeat worldliness.
- e. Evil A Mental Attitude.
MATTHEW 9:4 "And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?" This says literally, "Jesus knowing their thoughts said why are you thinking evil in your right lobes?" You think evil before you do evil.
- f. Arrogance is a mental attitude.
GALATIANS 6:3 "For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself." Deception is in the mind.

Therefore, this admonition in Phil. 3:15, "Let us continue objective thinking" is one of the most important admonitions in scripture. This verse goes on to say kai ei tis heteros and it means "And if in anything at all differently" plus the present, active, indicative of phroneo and this means "ye be minded." So this adverb cancels out the objective thinking. Different thinking means thinking that is contrary to the thoughts of God. Next we have "The God shall reveal" and this is a future, active, indicative of apokalupto. God pulls the curtain back and reveals our human viewpoint. Then we have that The God will reveal "even this unto you."

So, in this great verse, we have "Therefore, as many as are mature, let us continue objective thinking, and if you think differently in anything at all (and you do--this is a first class condition in the Greek) this also will The God reveal to you."

MENTAL ATTITUDE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFE.

PHILIPPIANS 3:16 "Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing." The perpetuation of the super grace status is given in this verse. The word translated "nevertheless" is from plen and means "however."

Then we have eis hos and this should be translated "With reference to as far as." Next we have an aorist, active, indicative of phthano and it means "we have already advanced or attained."

He now gives a command in the present, active, infinitive of stoicheo and it means "submit yourself to discipline." Stay in rank. Stay in line and attend Bible class and learn doctrine.

This is the way to reach the golden drawbridge and cross over into surpassing grace. This verse literally says, "However, with reference to as far as we have already advanced, let us stay in line and keep advancing in rank, minding the same things." We think God's thoughts after him.