INTRODUCTION
1. Jeremiah tells the people of God to "wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved". 
2. He asked the question: "How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee?"
3. As long as their thinking was wrong they would be wrong -- to be saved they had to change their thinking.
   (1) Their vain thoughts were defiling.
   (2) "Vain" here means "wicked" or "immoral" thoughts.
4. God has always laid great stress upon right thinking because man is defiled from the heart.
   (1) Mark 7: 20 - 23
5. The "issues of life" come out of the HEART -- Prov. 4:23--"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life"
6. As a man thinks in his heart, so is he -- Prov. 23: 7 -- "for as he thinketh in his heart, so is he".
   (1) Every thought SEED that is allowed to take ROOT in the heart produces its own sooner or later.
   (2) It will bear its fruit when it has OPPORTUNITY and right CIRCUMSTANCE.
   (3) Good thoughts bear good fruit and bad thoughts bad fruits -- Matt. 12:35
   (4) Circumstances will reveal what a man has been thinking about.
7. A man’s mind may be likened to a garden.
   (1) Good seed and cultivation will produce good fruit.
   (2) If not cultivated it will "run wild" and useless "weed seed" will take it and produce after their kind.
8. Paul tells the Christian he must think right -- Phil. 4:8
9. Let us notice some VAIN THOUGHTS.

I. PROUD AND HIGH-MINDED THOUGHTS
1. Causes a man to think more highly of himself than he ought to think -- Rom. 12:3; Gal. 6:3
2. This kind of man will stir up strife -- Prov. 28:25
3. He shows his pride by the way he looks and carries himself -- Prov. 6:17; Psa. 101:5

II. WORLDLY THOUGHTS
1. Anxiety concerning earthly goods.
   (1) Taking though or being filled with anxiety about what we are going to eat, drink or put on -- Matt. 6:25
2. Some only contemplate the material goods of this life.
   (1) The rich farmer of Luke 12: 16 - 21
   (2) The rich young ruler -- Matt. 19: 16 - 22
3. The Christian is to have his thoughts on THINGS ABOVE -- Col. 3:1; Matt. 6: 19 - 21

III. ENVIOUS THOUGHTS
1. Many look with pain and dislike on the good of others.
2. They ENVY their:
   (1) Prosperity
   (2) Good name
   (3) Influence
   (4) Reputation
   (5) Good works

3. Envy is a work of the flesh -- Gal. 5:21

IV. THOUGHTS OF SPECULATIVE WICKEDNESS
1. When impure and sensual thoughts of LUST are conceived in the heart, it is sin -- Matt. 5:28; James 1:15
2. These thoughts will bring forth the overt act of sin when the proper circumstances happen.
3. "Filthy dreamers" -- Jude 8

V. VAIN THOUGHTS CANNOT BE KEPT SECRET FROM MEN
1. Men imagine that thoughts can be kept secret, but they cannot.
2. Because thought rapidly crystallizes into ACTION -- Mark 7:20 - 23; Matt. 12:34 - 35; James 1:13 - 15
   (1) Think on drunkenness and opportunity will reveal the thought in the overt act.
   (2) Think on adultery or fornication and opportunity will reveal the thought in the overt act.
   (3) Think on fear, doubt, and indecision and these thoughts will crystallize into weakness, unmanliness and failure.
   (4) Think on hateful thoughts and you will be hateful.
   (5) Selfish thoughts of all kinds crystallize into habits of self-seeking.
   (6) Good and beautiful thoughts of all kinds crystallize into habits of kindness -- I Cor. 13:5
   (7) Pure thoughts will produce self-control -- Phil. 4:8

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