A Good Mind
Matt. 22:37

Introduction:
A. Christianity requires a good mind—"with all your mind".
   1. Someone said that "Christianity is a thinking man's religion".
   2. So much that a Christian is to do requires mental activity.
   3. Does not require an "intellectual", but does require use of what intelligence God gives us.
   4. A good mind means more than just being capable of reasoning and understanding.
B. New Testament gives us some characteristics a truly good mind needed by Christians:

Discussion:
   A. Purified by obeying the truth. (1 Pet. 1:22).
   B. Kept pure by meditating on good things. (Phil. 4:8).

II. A Good Mind Is A Spiritual Mind. (Rom. 8:6)
   A. Produces fruit of Spirit rather than works of flesh. (Gal. 5:19-23).
   B. More impressed with spiritual credentials of teachers than with fleshly. (cf. 1 Cor. 3:1-4).
   C. More concerned with inward adorning than outward. (1 Pet. 3:3,4).
   D. Heaven centered rather than earth centered. (cf. Col. 3:2).

III. A Good Mind Is A Humble Mind. (Col. 3:12).
   A. Opposite of conceit and selfishness. (Phil. 2:3,4).
   B. Obedient without complaining. (Phil. 2:8, 2:12-14)

   A. Eager (ready and willing) to learn the truth. (Acts 17:11)
   B. Eager (ready and willing) to do the truth. (2 Cor. 8:12; 1 Pet. 5:2—Note: compare versions)

V. A Good Mind Is A Sober Mind. (Tit. 2:6).
   A. Two words for "sober".
      1. “SOPHRONEO" = To be of sound mind Thinking rationally. (cf. Rom. 12:3; 2 Cor. 5:13).
      2. “NEPHO" or “NEPHALIOS" (cf. 1 Thess. 5:6,8; 2 Tim. 4:5; 1 Pet. 1:13; 4:7; 5:8)
         a. “To be free from influence of intoxicants” — Vine.
         b. “To abstain from wine” — Donnegan.
         c. “Sober, temperate, especially in respect to wine.” — Robinson
         d. “Sober, temperate, abstaining from wine” — Thayer.
   B. Cannot have a sober mind and mess his mind up with alcohol and other drugs.
      1. Bible use of wine and modern drinking not a good comparison.
         a. Scholarship divided on meaning of word “wine” (cf. Isa. 16:10; 65:8).
         b. Strong drink (from grain) of that day probably weaker than most modern drinks.
         c. Strong evidence that naturally fermented wines were watered down for drinking. (Statements from Westminster Dictionary of Bible, McGarvey, B.W. Johnson, Barnes, from Needham's tract pp. 14,15).
      2. So-called Biblical justification for moderate drinking falls short.
         a. Timothy's "little wine" — only authorizes medical usage.
         b. “Not given to wine” — “Not given to filthy lucre” (Tit. 1:7)
         c. “not..much wine” — “Not over much wicked" (Ecc. 7:17).
   C. Reasons why a Christian should not drink at all.
      1. Modern drinks cannot be compared to light wines of Palestine.
      3. Greater danger of addiction to modern beverages than light wines of Biblical times.
      4. Difficulty in knowing when one ceases to be completely sober and becomes a little drunk?
      5. Legal drunkenness is .5% blood alcohol: For 170 lb. man—3 (12 oz.) bottles of beer or 3 (4oz) glasses of TABLE wine or 1½ 5 oz. glasses of fortified wine.

Conclusion:
A. We need a good mind to serve the Lord at his best.
B. We should do nothing that would weakness our purity, spirituality, humility, readiness and sobriety of mind.