**Man’s Earthly Human Agenda**

**Mat 16:21** from that time Jesus Christ began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. **22** And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid *it*, Lord! This shall never happen to you." **23** But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are **not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."**

1. God prophetically taught the person and work of the Messiah using visual aids: animal sacrifices, temple, dietary laws, Levitical priesthood – each ritual had a shadow spiritual meaning pointing to Christ.

**Heb 10:1** For the Law, since it has *only* a shadow of the good things to come *and* not the very form of things, can never by the same sacrifices year by year, which they offer continually, make perfect those who draw near

* The Law taught using shadows pointing to spiritual realities that Messiah would bring

1. Many/most of the Jews turned the Law into a works system for pleasing God and viewed Messiah as a political & military leader.
2. The Jewish mind set of first century Israel about Messiah was an earthly focused, human agenda driven view that He would become King of the nation & free them from Rome.
3. The human agenda ideology about Messiah that Peter was visualizing, Jesus described as “not focusing your mind on the things of God but focused on the things of man”.
4. Peter was imagining Jesus as the earthly, millennial king promised in the OT, but his mind like most in his day had filtered out the suffering servant of Psm 22 & Isa 53 – they didn’t expect Him to die.
5. **Our initial belief & behavior system that we formed before we were saved, apart from God’s influence is focused (phroneo) on the things of this life & our earthly treasures – human agenda.**

**Romans 8:5** for those who are walking according to the flesh have set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are walking according to the Spirit, have set their minds on the things of the Spirit

**1 Cor 13:11** When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, focused on the things of a child, used childish logic; but when I became a man, I did away with childish things.

**Phil 3:18-19** For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* enemies of the cross of Christ, **19** whose end is destruction, whose god is *their* appetite, and *whose* glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.

**Col 3:1-2** If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

**Mat 6:19-21** "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. **20** "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal **21** for where your treasure is, there your heart be also.

**1 Timothy 6:17** Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.

1. We naturally attach ourselves to the temporal, people & circumstances rather than God because initially the temporal is all that we can perceive & understand, fitting into our belief/focus on earthly treasures.
2. We form habits of trusting in & focusing on earthly treasures that become automatic images & inner dialogue so that we habitually & unconsciously pursue the things on the earth – all we have to believe in
3. For many people, their primary human agenda & life pursuits are not characterized by personal sins, but by the pursuit of earthly treasures, seeking the “good things of life”.
4. We are encouraged to confess our sins but seldom to acknowledge our committed love (agape) for people more than God or our pursuit of the earthly treasures of this life.

**Luke 8:11-15** "now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God. 12 the seed beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they may not believe and be saved. 13 "those on the rocky *soil are* those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; but these have no *firm* root; they believe for a while, but in time of temptation fall away. 14 “ the *seed* which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with **worries and riches and pleasures of *this* life**, and bring no fruit to maturity. 15 " the *seed* in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.

* The 2 soils that took root but didn’t produce was because they folded under the adversities of life or they were distracted by their pursuit of earthly treasures.

1. Our initial, self-centered belief system with its habitual, automatic, earthly goals & priorities is stored in the neurons of our brain where it unconsciously produces our drive to accomplish our human agenda.

* Divinely Designed Needs – produces desire: hunger & thirst driving us to find a source of fulfillment
* Attach to people to meet our needs, believing that people are the answer to our hunger & thirst
* People become counterfeit gods to whom we attach, developing strategies we hope will cause them to want, like & love us, meeting our need for acceptance, approval, accomplishment & affection.
* When our people/gods fail us, betray us, hurt us & disappoint us we instinctively form defensive walls & forms of denial designed to protect us from future relational pain.

1. **Even after salvation, indwelt & empowered by ministry of the Spirit & having learned Church Age doctrine, human agenda operates automatically & unconsciously & must be intentionally interrupted.**
2. We believe that people are the answer to our hunger/thirst & have made pursuing them with our love strategies into habits & automatic programming, causing our human agenda to operate automatically.
3. We no longer have to operate our human agenda intentionally, the program has been installed & operates automatically, causing us to pursue acceptance, approval & love from people more than God.

* Human brain accepts ideas & is programmed by what we believe, where it connects like ideas, forming them into habitual behaviors that operate automatically – use an idea & it becomes habitual & automatic
* Once we program our brain & use an idea for a time, it operates unconsciously & unintentionally
* Ideas we accepted & habituated into automatic, unintentional patterns & cycles of behavior, must be purposely stopped in motion & then rejected repeatedly to uninstall the idea from the brain

1. The human agenda program installed in the neurons in our brain must be intentionally interrupted, causing its automatic function to stop, so that we can choose to operate from our divine agenda.
2. Simply learning new ideas or believing ideas that refute our existing beliefs, does not remove the old idea nor does it stop its habitual, automatic operation that produces thoughts, feelings, words & actions.

* Once an idea (true or false) is installed by believing it & then habituating it into an automatic pattern, it must be intentionally isolated, challenged & repeatedly rejected to remove it from the neural program.
* Even after God’s word has proven to you that the old idea is false & untrue, it will continue to produce mental sins & emotions of guilt, shame, anger or fear, verbal sins of pretending, lying, angry words or hurtful words & actions until you intentionally remove it from your mind.

1. Every day we wake up and if we forget to intentionally think about the Lord and imagine His agenda for us, we will automatically focus on the status of our relationships and our circumstances, making them the reason why we feel what we feel and the objects of our pursuits & actions.

**Ex:** children of divorce repeatedly report that long after their parents are remarried or even dead, their hearts still long for them to be reunited, for their family to be put back together. That idea continues to form the image of the parents restored, the regret that they are not & the desire that maybe even in heaven the issue can be resolved – programmed into their brain where it continues to produce that desire.

**Ex**: Personal failure with tragic consequences – we all fail to live up to our potential or often our obligations, causing us to let others down, hurt them or disappoint them in major ways. Parents deeply hurt their children in ways that cause lasting scars. Long after we are forgiven by God and even the people involved we can feel guilt & shame, reliving & replaying scenarios over and over, beating ourselves up, believing that we don’t deserve to be forgiven, not forgiving ourselves.

1. **As we develop the new man belief system & seek to put it into practice, while walking in the Spirit, practicing awareness we can observe our negative emotions & when practicing alertness, we can discern the root thinking behind our feelings & confront it by naming it “dead”- worthless & useless**

**Rom 6:11** Even so logically think of yourselves to be dead to sin, while you are living to God in Christ Jesus.

**Vs 11** – logically think – ***logizomai*** PAImpv: command to use divine logic from the ***logos –*** the word of God

**Vs 11** – while living – ***zao*** PAPtc – **while living** by the power of the Spirit, using the divine perspective

1. The goal of life after salvation is to be transformed to be like Christ and to live victoriously through all the challenges & adversities of the devil’s world.

**2 Cor 3:18** But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

**Rom 12:2** And stop outwardly imitating the pattern of popular culture of the day, instead be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is will of God, that which is good & acceptable & perfect.

1. The goal of the Christian life in not “to not sin” or to rearrange your old man belief system without developing & pursuing the righteous side of the equation – the new man.

**Eph 4:22-24** you were taught in reference to your former manner of life, to lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 put on the new self, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness & holiness from the truth.

* We can’t successfully live the Christian life by building the new man beliefs on top of the old man beliefs
* The two systems are mutually exclusive systems of beliefs, thoughts, motives, goals & priorities

1. As we are seeking to implement the divine truths we have learned, we discover that we are challenged within ourselves about every aspect of our new man ambitions & that we already have previously chosen worldly, earthly beliefs about every area of life, that we have been using to make our decisions.

* Seek to love God with all of our heart, mind, soul & strength – we discover that our self, our mate, children or possessions already hold that lofty position in our lives.
* Seek to self sacrificially serve Him we discover that we are already giving our time to making money because we believe that money is necessary to obtain the best things in this life.
* Seek to love wife like Christ loves the church or submit to husband like church to Christ we discover that our hearts are divided by loyalty to self

1. When we are single mindedly seeking to live for Christ & His divine agenda, it becomes obvious when our human agenda interferes & interrupts with our spiritual momentum.
2. **Our Old Man beliefs system is built on false ideas from misinterpretations of life events that we believe that we then implement, turning our wrong ideas into our life habits.**
3. All of Israel, with few exceptions held the same Messianic views that Peter held, causing them to be confused about Jesus being the one they were expecting.

**Mat 11:2-6** Now when John in prison heard of the works of Christ, he sent *word* by his disciples, 3 and said to Him, "Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?" 4 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you hear and see: 5 *the* blind receive sight and *the* lame walk, *the* lepers are cleansed and *the* deaf hear, and *the* dead are raised up, and *the* poor have the gospel preached to them. 6 "And blessed is he who keeps from stumbling over Me."

* Their desire to be freed from Rome caused them to emphasize the prophecies about Christ being like Moses & David while rejecting the miracles & suffering.

1. Jesus sends back to John the messianic scriptures from Isaiah about healing and suffering.

**Isa 29:18** And on that day the deaf shall hear words of a book, And out of *their* gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see.

**Isa 61:1** The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to prisoners

**Isaiah 28:16** Therefore thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, A costly cornerstone *for* the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes *in it* will not be disturbed.

**Isaiah 53:1-10** Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? 2 For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, And like a root out of parched ground; He has no *stately* form or majesty That we should look upon Him, Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him. 3 He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face, He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. 4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. 6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him. 7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth. 8 By oppression and judgment He was taken away; And as for His generation, who considered That He was cut off out of the land of the living, For the transgression of my people to whom the stroke *was due*? 9 His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth. 10 But the LORD was pleased To crush Him, putting *Him* to grief; If He would render Himself *as* a guilt offering, He will see *His* offspring, He will prolong *His* days, And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand.