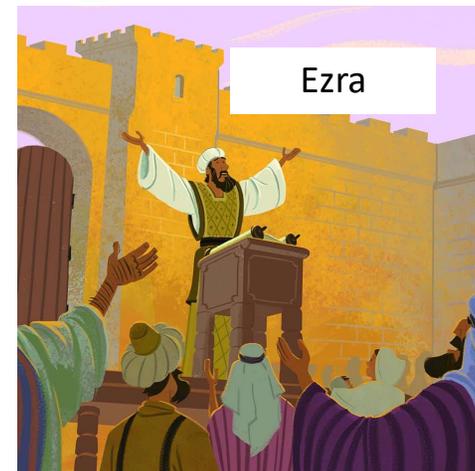
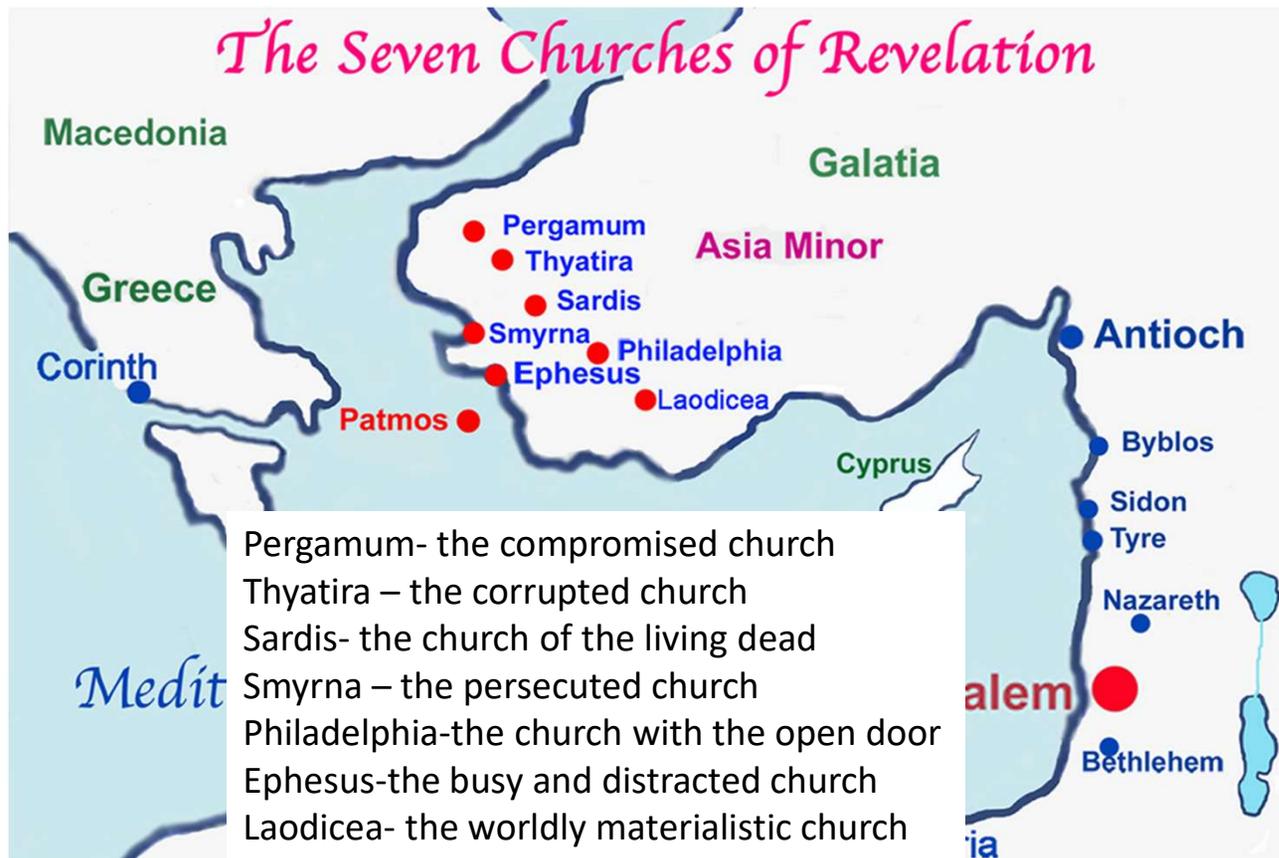


Unmasking Our Fears

Taking every thought captive to obey Christ

2 Corinthians 10:5

The Seven Churches of Revelation



Ancient Corinth

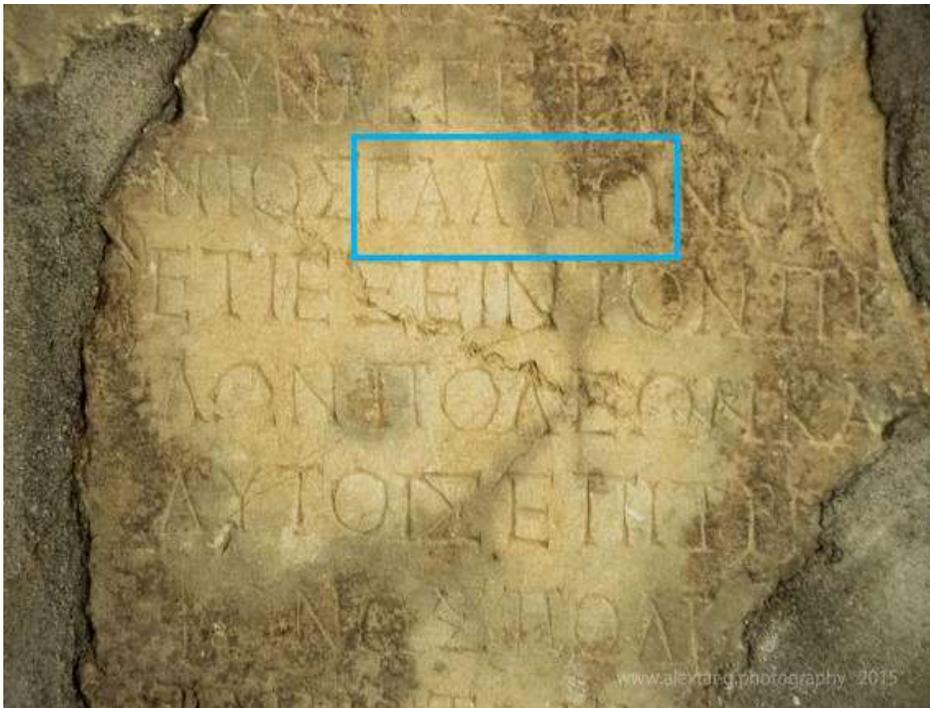


Ancient Corinth



- Paul first visited the city in AD 49 or 50, when Gallio, the brother of Seneca, was proconsul of Achaia
- Paul stayed for 18 months (Acts 18:11)
- Paul wrote at least two epistles to the Christian church, 1 Corinthians (written from Ephesus) and 2 Corinthians (written from Macedonia)

The Gallio Inscription



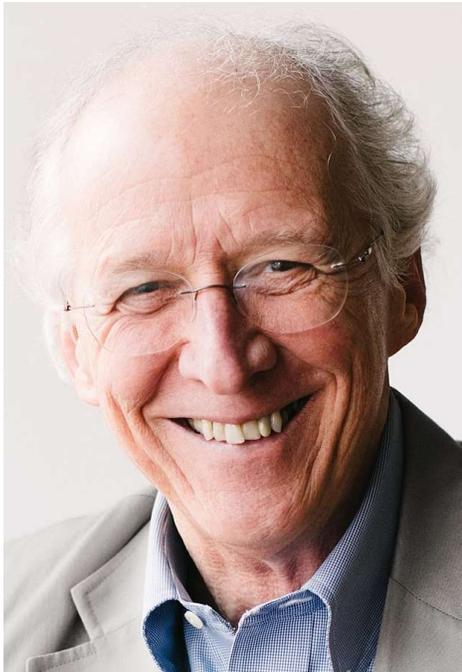
- In AD 51/52, Gallio the pro-consul presided over the trial of the Paul in Corinth (Acts 18:12-16)
- This event provides a secure date for the book of the Acts of the Apostles within the Bible.

Take every thought
captive to obey Christ

2 Corinthians 10:3–6 (NIV)

3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. **5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.** 6 And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.

Take every thought captive to obey Christ



2 Corinthians 10:5

“[First] we destroy arguments and every lofty [or proud] opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and [second we] take every thought captive.” It’s like when you move in a battle: you destroy the fortress, and then you take captives. We “take every thought captive to obey Christ.”

John Piper

Take every thought
captive to obey Christ

1. Examining our thoughts in light of the Bible

Take every thought captive to obey Christ

Philippians 4:6–8 (NIV)

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Take every thought
captive to obey Christ

conscious

MIND
thoughts

subconscious

HEART
emotions

Take every thought
captive to obey Christ

1. Examining our thoughts in light of the Bible
2. Examining our thoughts in light of the Holy Spirit

Take every thought
captive to obey Christ

Romans 12:1–2 (NIV)

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be **transformed by the renewing of your mind**. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Take every thought
captive to obey Christ

1. Examining our thoughts in light of the Bible
2. Examining our thoughts in light of the Holy Spirit
3. Examining our thoughts in light of abiding in Christ

Take every thought
captive to obey Christ

Luke 10:27 (NIV)

27 He answered, “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

How do we take every thought captive to obey Christ?

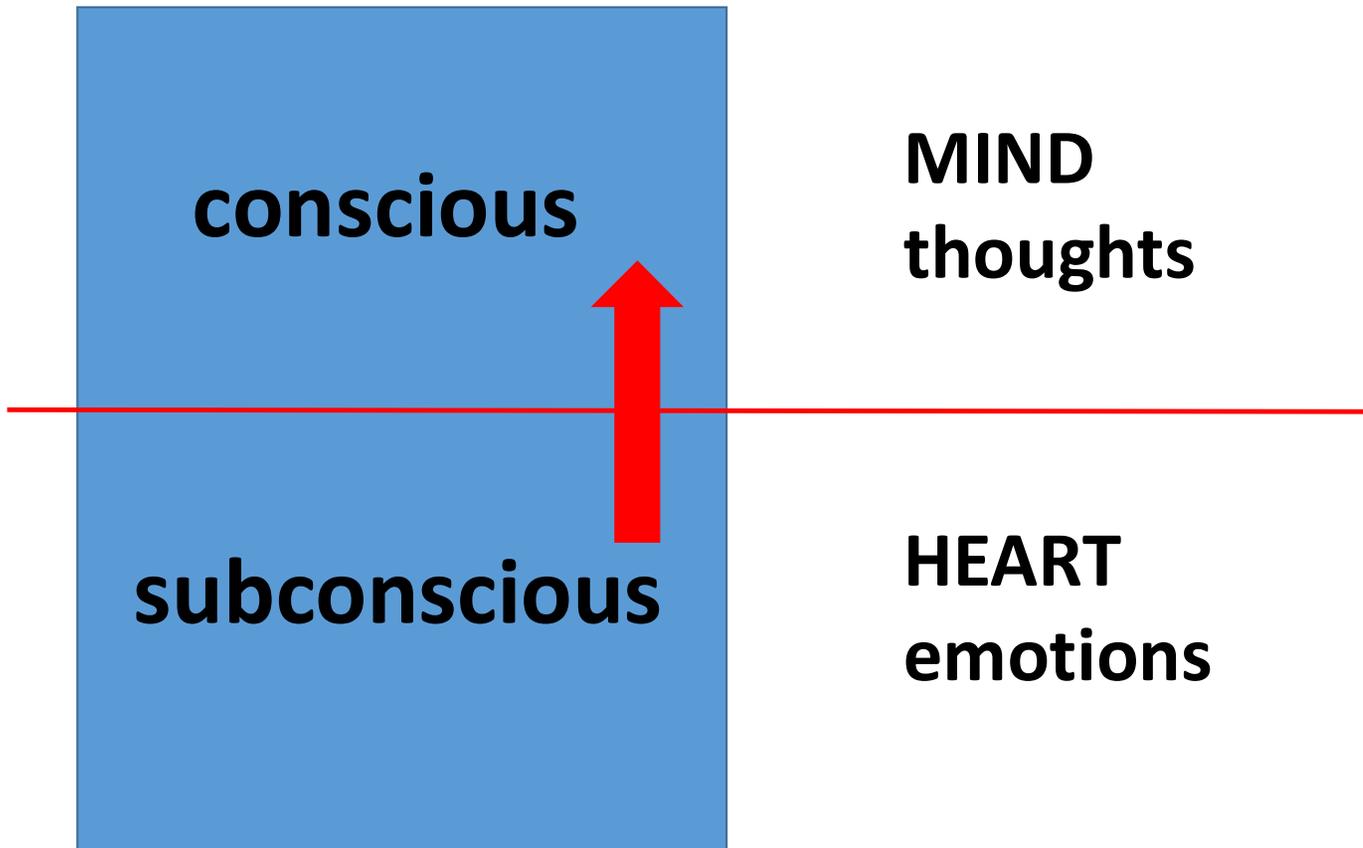


Unmasking Our Fears

Taking every thought captive to obey Christ

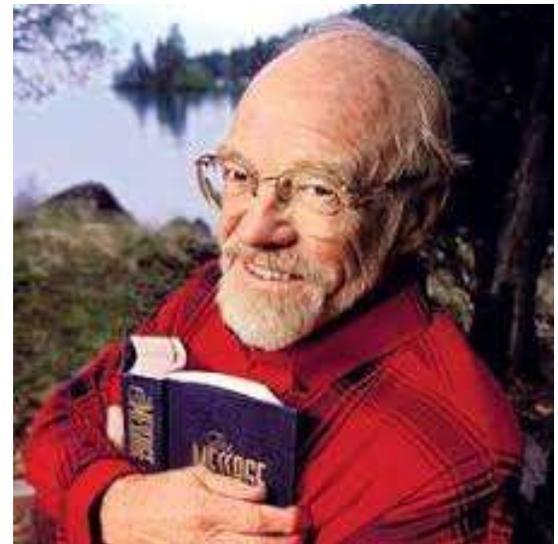
2 Corinthians 10:5

Take every thought
captive to obey Christ



“If we forget that the newspapers are footnotes to Scripture and not the other way around, we will finally be afraid to get out of bed in the morning. Too many of us spend far too much time with the editorial page and not nearly enough with the prophetic vision. We get our interpretation of politics and economics and morals from journalists when we should be getting only information; the meaning of the world is most accurately given to us by God’s Word.”

— Eugene H. Peterson, *Run with the Horses: The Quest for Life at Its Best*



1. Naming or Unmasking our Fears

- Fear is a big issue
- Fear leads to anxiety and anger
- “*What exactly am I afraid of?*” Naming your fear(s)
 - COVID-19
 - Loss of safety and security
 - Loss of status
 - Powerlessness and helplessness
 - Loss of loved ones
 - Death

2. Making friends with your fears

- Is the fear REAL or IMAGINED? “what if”



2. Making friends with your fears

- Can you do anything?

	CAN CONTROL	CAN'T CONTROL
CAN ACT	Situation Mastery	Ceaseless Striving
CAN'T ACT	Accepting	Letting Go

3. Making our fears captive



1 Samuel 17:57-18:16 – Saul Becomes Jealous of David

- If imaginary, avoid dwelling on it
- If can do something do something, if not prayer and commit it to God

Take every thought
captive to obey Christ





Take every thought
captive to obey Christ

2 Corinthians 10:3–6 (NIV)

3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. **5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.** 6 And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.