**LESSON SIX**

**The Careless Mind**

**Key Verse**

**Joshua 1:8 -** This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+1%3A8&version=NASB#fen-NASB-5860a)]be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+1%3A8&version=NASB#fen-NASB-5860b)]achieve success.

**Lesson Summary**

Paul went to a lot of trouble to mentor Timothy in the truth of God's Word. The responsibility was now Timothy's. Instead of acting careless with the truths he had been taught, Timothy determined to cultivate truth in his heart so that he could mature spiritually. D.L. Moody once said, "I never saw a useful Christian who was not a student of the Bible." Like Timothy, we can learn to avoid carelessness in our minds by becoming useful Christians-students of God's Word.

**Lesson Aim**

To discipline our thoughts in the right direction so that we can live the right result.

**Lesson Goals**

At the conclusion of this lesson, students should:

1. Cultivate the soil of their hearts so that truth can grow and mature to a wonderful harvest.
2. Invest their lives in the ministry of helping others follow Christ.
3. Meditate on Scripture.
4. Consume themselves, like Jeremiah, with a passion to know God's Word.

**Teaching Outline**

1. A Cultivation of Truth
   1. A challenge for cultivation
   2. A call for cultivation
2. A Contemplation of Truth
   1. Apply the Word of God.
   2. Awake to the Word of God.
3. A Consumption with Truth
   1. A captivating thought
   2. A consuming truth

**Text**

**1 Timothy 4:14-15 -** Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was granted to you through *words of* prophecy with the laying on of hands by the [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+TIMOTHY+4%3A14-15&version=NASB#fen-NASB-29749a)]council of elders. **15**Take pains with these things; be *absorbed* in them, so that your progress will be evident to all.

**Philippians 4:8-9** - “…whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. **9**Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

**Psalm 119:59** - *"*I ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+119%3A59+&version=NASB#cen-NASB-15958A))considered my ways And turned my feet to Your testimonies.*”*

**1 Timothy 4:14 -** “Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was granted to you through *words of* prophecy with the laying on of hands by the [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+TIMOTHY+4%3A14-15&version=NASB#fen-NASB-29749a)]council of elders.*"*

**Jeremiah 4:3** - *"* Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns.*"*

**Hosea 10:12 -** *"*Sow for yourselves, *with a view* to righteousness; Harvest in accordance with [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=hosea+10%3A12&version=NASB#fen-NASB-22238a)]kindness. ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=hosea+10%3A12&version=NASB#cen-NASB-22238B))Break up your uncultivated ground, For it is time to ([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=hosea+10%3A12&version=NASB#cen-NASB-22238C))seek the Lord Until He ([D](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=hosea+10%3A12&version=NASB#cen-NASB-22238D))comes and ([E](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=hosea+10%3A12&version=NASB#cen-NASB-22238E))rains righteousness on you.*"*

**2 Peter 3:14-18 -** Therefore, ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+3%3A14-18&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30524B))beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be ([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+3%3A14-18&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30524C))found ([D](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+3%3A14-18&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30524D))spotless and blameless by Him, at peace, **15**and regard the ([E](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+3%3A14-18&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30525E))patience of our Lord *as* salvation; just as also ([F](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+3%3A14-18&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30525F))our beloved brother Paul, ([G](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+3%3A14-18&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30525G))according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, **16**as also in all *his* letters, speaking in them of ([H](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+3%3A14-18&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30526H))these things, ([I](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+3%3A14-18&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30526I))in which there are some things that are hard to understand, which the untaught and ([J](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+3%3A14-18&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30526J))unstable distort, as *they do* also ([K](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+3%3A14-18&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30526K))the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. **17**You therefore, ([L](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+3%3A14-18&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30527L))beloved, knowing this beforehand, ([M](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+3%3A14-18&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30527M))be on your guard so that you are not carried away by ([N](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+3%3A14-18&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30527N))the error of [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+3%3A14-18&version=NASB#fen-NASB-30527a)]([O](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+3%3A14-18&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30527O))unscrupulous people and ([P](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+3%3A14-18&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30527P))lose your own [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+3%3A14-18&version=NASB#fen-NASB-30527b)]firm commitment, **18**but grow in the grace and ([Q](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+3%3A14-18&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30528Q))knowledge of our ([R](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+3%3A14-18&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30528R))Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. ([S](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+3%3A14-18&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30528S))To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

**Henry Ford Quote** - "Thinking is the hardest work there is, which is probably the reason so few people engage in it."

**Psalm 4:4** - *"*Tremble, [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+4%3A4&version=NASB#fen-NASB-13970b)]([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+4%3A4&version=NASB#cen-NASB-13970B))and do not sin; [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+4%3A4&version=NASB#fen-NASB-13970c)]([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+4%3A4&version=NASB#cen-NASB-13970C))Meditate in your heart upon your bed, and be still.*"*

**Joshua 1:8a** - *"*This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night…"

**Psalm 63:1 -** " God, ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+63%3A1&version=NASB#cen-NASB-14841A))You are my God; I shall be watching for You; My soul ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+63%3A1&version=NASB#cen-NASB-14841B))thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a ([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+63%3A1&version=NASB#cen-NASB-14841C))dry and exhausted land where there is no water.*"*

**Psalm 104:34 -** *"* But his ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+1%3A2&version=NASB#cen-NASB-13942A))delight is ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+1%3A2&version=NASB#cen-NASB-13942B))in the Law of the Lord, And on His Law he meditates ([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+1%3A2&version=NASB#cen-NASB-13942C))day and ([D](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+1%3A2&version=NASB#cen-NASB-13942D))night.*"* (Psalm 1:2). God's Word will direct your thoughts toward the Lord and *"* May my ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+104%3A34&version=NASB#cen-NASB-15606A))praise be pleasing to Him; As for me, I shall ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+104%3A34&version=NASB#cen-NASB-15606B))rejoice in the Lord.*"*

**Jeremiah 15:16 -** *"* Your words were found and I ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+15%3A16&version=NASB#cen-NASB-19332A))ate them, And Your ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+15%3A16&version=NASB#cen-NASB-19332B))words became a joy to me and the delight of my heart; For I have been ([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+15%3A16&version=NASB#cen-NASB-19332C))called by Your name, Lord God of armies.*"*

**Psalm 119:47 -** *"* I will ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+119%3A47&version=NASB#cen-NASB-15946A))delight in Your commandments, Which I ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+119%3A47&version=NASB#cen-NASB-15946B))love.*"*

**Psalm 119:72 -** *"*The ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+119%3A72&version=NASB#cen-NASB-15971A))Law of Your mouth is better to me Than thousands of gold and silver *pieces*.*"*

**Psalm 119:97 -** "How I ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+119%3A97&version=NASB#cen-NASB-15996A))love Your Law! It is my ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+119%3A97&version=NASB#cen-NASB-15996B))meditation all the day.*"*

**Psalm 119:140 -** *"*Your ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+119%3A140&version=NASB#cen-NASB-16039A))word is very [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+119%3A140&version=NASB#fen-NASB-16039a)]pure, Therefore Your servant ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+119%3A140&version=NASB#cen-NASB-16039B))loves it*"*

**Study Questions**

1. Philippians 4:8 tells us to think on which things?

2. Reading and memorizing God's Word early in the day will allow you to "think" on it throughout the day. List two Scriptures that support this truth.

3. D.L. Moody said, "I never saw a useful Christian who was not a student of the Bible." Do you consider yourself a student of the Bible? Explain your answer.

4. You are to discipline your thoughts in the right direction so that you can live the right way. Psalm 119:59 says, *"I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies."* Think on your ways, and determine whether you need to turn back to God's Word. What changes do you need to make?

5. The prophets of the Old Testament understood the need to cultivate the heart. Write out their exhortations in Jeremiah 4:3 and Hosea 10:12.

6. In your own words, describe what it means to delight in the Law of the Lord (Psalm 1:2).

7. What command is given in 2 Peter 3:18, and what steps can you take toward fulfilling it?

8. Using Psalm 4:4 as a guide, spend some quiet time with the Lord, commune with Him, and ask Him to help you cultivate truth in your heart.

**Memory Verse**

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+1%3A8&version=NASB#fen-NASB-5860a)]be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+1%3A8&version=NASB#fen-NASB-5860b)]achieve success.

(Joshua 1:8)