LESSON SEVEN

**The Contaminated Mind**

**Key Verse**

**Proverbs 12:5 -** The thoughts of the righteous are just, But the counsels of the wicked are deceitful..

**Lesson Summary**

Unlike light switches, our minds do not turn on and off instantly. Although that would be convenient, it's just not possible. Instead, we have to work on turning our minds off and keeping them closed to wrong influences. Paul was aware of this, and in 1 Timothy 4:16, he warns Timothy to pay attention! and be careful lest his mind be contaminated. We too can slip into the role of Paul's pupil and learn how to guard our minds from contamination.

**Lesson Aim**

To guard our minds from wrong influences by keeping our lives pure before God.

**Lesson Goals**

At the conclusion of this lesson, students should:

1. Seek to rid themselves of any sin in order to keep their vessel clean before God.
2. Not contaminate their minds by false teachers.
3. Saturate their minds with the truth of God's Word.
4. Value God's Word and believe His values.
5. Watch what they say by first watching what they think.

**Teaching Outline**

1. A Closed Brain-Door Will Keep Your Vessel Clean
   1. The rule of a clear caution
   2. The requirement of a clean conduit
2. A Closed Brain-Door Will Keep Your Values Centered
   1. The content of doctrine
   2. The concern of deception
3. A Closed Brain-Door Will Keep Your Voice Clear
   1. A pure mind
   2. A pleased Master

**Text**

1 **Timothy 4:16 -** Pay close attention to yourself and to the teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Timothy+4%3A16&version=NASB#cen-NASB-29751B))save both yourself and those who hear you.

**1 Timothy 4:16 -**"Pay close attention to yourself and to the teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Timothy+4%3A16&version=NASB#cen-NASB-29751B))save both yourself and those who hear you."

**2 Timothy 2:19-21 -** ”**20**Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver implements, but also implements of wood and of earthenware, and ([E](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+2%3A19-21&version=NASB#cen-NASB-29835E))some are for honor while others are for dishonor. **21**Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from ([F](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+2%3A19-21&version=NASB#cen-NASB-29836F))these things, he will be an implement for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, ([G](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+2%3A19-21&version=NASB#cen-NASB-29836G))prepared for every good work."

**Proverbs 12:5 -**  " The thoughts of the righteous are just, But the counsels of the wicked are deceitful."

**Jeremiah 17:9 -** "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it"

**2 Peter 1:4** - " But solid food is for ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+5%3A14&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30032A))the mature, who because of practice have their senses ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+5%3A14&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30032B))trained to ([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+5%3A14&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30032C))distinguish between good and evil." (Hebrews 5:14). That's why God gave it to us. Through [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+1%3A4&version=NASB#fen-NASB-30471a)]these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+1%3A4&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30471A))promises, so that by them you may become ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+1%3A4&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30471B))partakers of the divine nature, having ([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+1%3A4&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30471C))escaped the ([D](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+1%3A4&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30471D))corruption that is in ([E](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+1%3A4&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30471E))the world on account of lust."

**Psalm 119:97-106 -** How I ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+119%3A97-106&version=NASB#cen-NASB-15996A))love Your Law! It is my ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+119%3A97-106&version=NASB#cen-NASB-15996B))meditation all the day. **98**Your ([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+119%3A97-106&version=NASB#cen-NASB-15997C))commandments make me wiser than my enemies, For they are ever [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+119%3A97-106&version=NASB#fen-NASB-15997a)]mine. **99**I have more insight than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my ([D](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+119%3A97-106&version=NASB#cen-NASB-15998D))meditation. **100**I understand ([E](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+119%3A97-106&version=NASB#cen-NASB-15999E))more than those who are old, Because I have ([F](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+119%3A97-106&version=NASB#cen-NASB-15999F))complied with Your precepts. **101**I have ([G](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+119%3A97-106&version=NASB#cen-NASB-16000G))restrained my feet from every evil way, So that I may keep Your word. **102**I have not ([H](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+119%3A97-106&version=NASB#cen-NASB-16001H))turned aside from Your judgments, For You Yourself have taught me. **103**How ([I](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+119%3A97-106&version=NASB#cen-NASB-16002I))sweet are Your [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+119%3A97-106&version=NASB#fen-NASB-16002b)]words to my [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+119%3A97-106&version=NASB#fen-NASB-16002c)]taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth! **104**From Your precepts I ([J](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+119%3A97-106&version=NASB#cen-NASB-16003J))get understanding; Therefore I ([K](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+119%3A97-106&version=NASB#cen-NASB-16003K))hate every false way. **105**Your word is a ([L](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+119%3A97-106&version=NASB#cen-NASB-16004L))lamp to my feet And a light to my path. **106**I have ([M](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+119%3A97-106&version=NASB#cen-NASB-16005M))sworn and I will confirm it, That I will keep Your righteous judgments.

**Matthew 12:33-35 -**  “Either [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+12%3A33-35&version=NASB#fen-NASB-23523a)]assume the tree to be good as well as its fruit good, or [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+12%3A33-35&version=NASB#fen-NASB-23523b)]assume the tree to be bad as well as its fruit bad; for ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+12%3A33-35&version=NASB#cen-NASB-23523A))the tree is known by its fruit. **34**([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+12%3A33-35&version=NASB#cen-NASB-23524B))You [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+12%3A33-35&version=NASB#fen-NASB-23524c)]offspring of vipers, how can you, being evil, express any good things? ([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+12%3A33-35&version=NASB#cen-NASB-23524C))For the mouth speaks from that which fills the heart. **35**([D](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+12%3A33-35&version=NASB#cen-NASB-23525D))The good person brings out of his good treasure good things; and the evil person brings out of his evil treasure evil things."

**John 7:46 -** " Never has a man spoken in this way!”

**1 John 3:5 -** "... in him is no sin"

**Study Questions**

1. What are the three benefits of having a dosed brain-door?

2. God has chosen that His Word should flow through you, and He requires that it flow through a dean conduit. What steps can you take in your life to make yourself a clean conduit for God's truth?

3. According to Jeremiah 17:9, can we trust the thoughts in our hearts?

4. When God's Word is valuable to you, your values will be right. Refer to Psalm 119:97-106 and explain how this concept directed the psalmist's life.

5. All of us have said things that we regret. Perhaps in frustration you have said, "Why did I say that?" But way before we stop our tongue, we must stop our thoughts. Write out Matthew 12:33-35 to help you think before you speak.

6. Because we can't trust ourselves to think right, we must saturate ourselves with the truth that God has given to us. List three ways you can saturate yourself with the truth of God's Word.

7. There is an old computer saying that says, "Garbage in-Garbage out." As you consider the thoughts you struggle with most, ask yourself, "What 'Garbage in' is filtering into my heart and mind causing me to think these thoughts?" Next, read Matthew 12:33-35, and write out the truths found in these verses.

8. When you are thinking right, with the Holy Spirit's help the right words will come when you need them. Assignment for this week: Look for a chance to tell someone about the Lord, and allow God to show you that He will give you the right words to say if you first commit your thoughts to Him.

**Memory Verse**

"The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit."

(Proverbs 12:5)