

viz., the thoughts. The old proverb says "the wish is father to the deed," and it is true. You show me a young man who is impure in thought, and I will show you a young man who will ultimately become impure in deed. Yonder is a man who is a thief; did he become a thief only when he appropriated his neighbors' property? In the eyes of the law he did, but in the eyes of God he was a thief when he first resolved to steal. Did yonder homicide become a murderer only when he struck the murderous blow? In the eyes of the law he did, but in the eyes of God "he that hateth his brother is a murderer." When did yonder licentious young man break the seventh commandment? Christ answers the question with the words, "he that looketh upon a woman to lust after her hath already committed adultery with her in his heart." You see, young man, what an awfully searching thing Scripture truth is. There are young men here to-night who consider themselves very good young men, who in the sight of God have broken not only the sixth, seventh and eighth but all the commandments. In guarding against sin not only must you guard against the word and the deed, but you must guard against the very thought. You must

cleanse the thought before the life can be pure. And the young man who harbors evil or impure thoughts in his bosom is morally very unsafe. This is a point upon which I feel it is necessary to lay a great deal of emphasis. How often have I seen young men who were faultlessly polite in society, and wearing the most servile and cringing demeanor in company, and were great favorites with the ladies, etc., etc., in conversation afterwards by their remarks and vile insinuations would reveal the filth of thought that lay behind such a faultless exterior. O, young man, purify your thoughts. Do not harbor an obscene thought in your bosom. Do not harbor a mean thought or a low thought. Drive them forth from your bosom as you would a viper, and in your very thinking be pure, be straightforward and manly.

But perhaps some of you object by saying "I cannot control my thoughts." Well if you cannot you should. You may not be responsible for suggestions that may dart into your mind, but you are responsible for the reception you give those suggestions. If you wish to assert your will power you can banish them in time. And not only so but the work of God's spirit in your heart