



A Study of
Philippians 4:8

THINK ON THESE THINGS

Philippians 4:8

“Finally, brethren, 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.**” (KJV)

INTRODUCTION

The mind is the starting point for behavior. When Satan wants to entice a person to sin, he starts in the mind. (*Lust of Flesh, Lust of Eyes, Pride of Life*) **I John 2:16.**

If our minds are convinced, our behavior will follow. We can control our behavior (and even the behavior of others to a great extent) by affecting the thoughts of the mind. **Romans 12:2** “*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*”

Satan obviously wanted Adam and Eve to “sin”. Sin is the transgression of God’s law (I John 3:4). Sin is when we behave in a way that breaks or transgresses God’s commandment. Adam and Eve were told not to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. If they did, they would be punished with death. To influence their behavior (eat the fruit), Satan began his attacks in their minds!

In **Philippians 4:7** (*the verse prior to our text*) Paul said, “*And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*”

Paul said the “*peace of God*” will “*guard our hearts and minds*”. How? “*Through Christ Jesus*”.

How is our mind guarded by God’s peace through Jesus Christ? How does our minds find peace, tranquility, calmness, etc. which will secure us as we live for Christ?

Paul understood there were some things to DO. There is a certain set of behaviors that we must have before we can have peace from God. **Philippians 4:9** “*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.*” To encourage this behavior, Paul started with their minds, “*learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me*”. He knew that behaviors that lead to peace must begin in the mind!

Sandwiched between verses **7 & 9** is verse **8** (*our study text*). Paul gives us a list of qualities to “*think on*” which will affect our behavior in a positive way. This will ensure the peace of God in our lives that we yearn for.

“Finally, brethren, ...”

Jesus is addressing Christians.

We Christians struggle with the battle for our mind. We have decided to follow Jesus. We have made up our mind to serve Him. Satan now has even more incentive to conquer us. He is not as concerned about those who have already decided to reject Christ. The battle for their minds may be to affect their behavior in ways that will cause Christians to stumble.

Atheists have decided there is no God. This is foolish (Psalm 14:1 & Psalm 53:1). However, Satan can use these atheists to shake the faith of Christians. They may challenge their faith with “foolish questions”. This attacks their minds. Paul told his students, Timothy and Titus, to avoid such questions (II Timothy 2:23 & Titus 3:9).

Paul told Timothy not to listen to things that confuse and contribute to speculation. Instead, he should concentrate on things that encourage and build faith (I Timothy 1:4).

Fill in the Blanks using the King James Version of the Bible

Psalm 14:1 “The _____ hath said in his heart, There is no _____. They are _____, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.”

Psalm 53:1 “The fool hath said in his _____, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable _____: there is none that doeth good.”

II Timothy 2:23 “But _____ and unlearned _____ avoid, knowing that they do gender _____.”

Titus 3:9 “But _____ foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are _____ and _____.”

TRUE

The Greek word is ἀληθῆ (alēthē) - Unconcealed, Fact, Truthful

To be “true” means to be in line with what actually is. Satan attacks our minds with fear, doubt, division, confusion, and even misinformation (lies). We must think on TRUTH.

Fill in the blanks (KJV)

Think about what is TRUE

John 8:32 “And ye shall know the _____, and the truth shall make you _____.”

John 17:17 “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy _____ is truth.”

John 4:24 “God is a Spirit: and they that _____ him must worship him in spirit and in _____.”

I Corinthians 13:6 “Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the _____;”

Ephesians 4:15 “But speaking the truth in _____, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:”

Galatians 5:7 “Ye did run well; who did _____ you that ye should not obey the truth?”

I Timothy 2:4 “Who will have all men to be _____, and to come unto the _____ of the _____.”

Colossians 1:5 “For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the _____ of the _____;”

I Thessalonians 2:13 “For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of _____, ye received it not as the word of _____, but as it is in truth, the word of _____, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.”

Galatians 1:8 “But though _____, or an angel from heaven, preach any other _____ unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”

HONEST

The Greek word is σεμνά (semna) – Honorable, Noble, Grave, Serious, Dignified, Venerable

Honorable thinking is serious and dignified. How much of what we spend our time thinking about is vulgar or common? Today's comedians seems to resort to vulgarity to get a laugh!

Fill in the blanks (KJV)

Think about what is HONEST

Mark 15:43 “Joseph of Arimathaea, an _____ counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in _____ unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus.”

Luke 8:15 “But that on the _____ ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having _____ the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.”

Romans 12:17 “Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things _____ in the sight of all men.”

Romans 13:13 “Let us walk honestly, as in the _____; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in _____ and envying.”

II Corinthians 8:21 “Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the _____, but also in the sight of _____.”

I Thessalonians 4:12 “That ye may walk honestly toward them that are _____, and that ye may have lack of nothing.”

I Peter 2:12 “Having your _____ honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your _____ works, which they shall _____, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

Hebrews 13:18 “_____ for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things _____ to live honestly.”

I Timothy 2:2 “For kings, and for all that are in _____; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and _____.”

JUST

The Greek word is δίκαια (dikaia) – Equitable, Holy, Right

So much of our culture seems to be turning things upside down when it comes to justice! It is not a matter of what is right or fair, it is a more a matter “my way or else”!

Fill in the blanks (KJV)

Think about what is JUST

Revelation 15:3 “And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, _____ and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; _____ and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.”

Revelation 4:8 “And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, _____, _____, _____, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.”

I Peter 1:15 “But as he which hath called you is _____, so be ye _____ in all manner of conversation;”

Ephesians 5:27 “That he might present it to himself a glorious _____, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be _____ and without blemish.”

Colossians 4:1 “Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and _____; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven.”

Romans 2:13 “For not the _____ of the law are just before God, but the _____ of the law shall be justified.”

Hebrews 10:38 “Now the _____ shall live by faith: but if any man draw _____, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.”

PURE

The Greek word is ἁγνά (hagna) - Proper, Clean, Innocent, Modest, Perfect

It is easy to think improper thoughts when challenged with what the world flashes before us. Yet we must purge these unclean thoughts with the clean and proper thinking. It will take effort!

Fill in the blanks (KJV)

Think about what is PURE

Matthew 5:8 "Blessed are the _____ in heart: for they shall see God."

Titus 1:15 "Unto the _____ all things are _____: but unto them that are defiled and _____ is nothing pure; but even their _____ and conscience is defiled."

James 3:17 "But the _____ that is from above is first _____, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."

I Peter 1:22 "Seeing ye have _____ your souls in obeying the _____ through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure _____ fervently:"

I Timothy 1:5 "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure _____, and of a good conscience, and of _____ unfeigned:"

I Timothy 5:22 "Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be _____ of other men's sins: keep thyself _____."

James 1:27 "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To _____ the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself _____ from the world."

II Peter 3:1 "This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure _____ by way of _____:"

LOVELY

The Greek word is προσφιλή (prophilē) - Pleasing, Grateful, Acceptable

Though sin can feel good, the consequences do not! Not only are there physical consequences; there can be mental anguish of guilt and despair. Pleasing God will bring us peace of mind.

Fill in the blanks (KJV)

Think about what is LOVELY

Romans 12:1 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, _____ unto God, which is your reasonable _____."

Romans 12:2 "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the _____ of your _____, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Ephesians 5:10 "Proving what is _____ unto the Lord."

I Peter 2:5 "Ye also, as _____ stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, _____ to God by Jesus Christ."

Colossians 1:10 "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all _____, being fruitful in every good _____, and increasing in the _____ of God;"

Romans 15:3 "For even Christ _____ not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me."

Hebrews 13:16 "But to do _____ and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well _____."

A LOVELY Thought:

Colossians 1:18-21 "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; And, having made _____ through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your _____ by wicked _____, yet now hath he _____."

GOOD REPORT

The Greek word is εὐφημα (euphēma) – Well Reported of, Spoken of in a kind spirit, Laudable, Reputable, Admirable

Proverbs 22:1 tells us “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, ...” Think on things that will strengthen our character and reputation. It will give us a positive influence.

Fill in the blanks (KJV)

Think about what is GOOD REPORT

Acts 10:22 “And they said, _____ the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good _____ among all the nation of the Jews, ...”

Acts 22:12 “And one _____, a devout man according to the law, having a good _____ of all the Jews which dwelt there,”

III John 1:12 “_____ hath good _____ of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear _____; and ye know that our _____ is true.”

I Timothy 3:7 “Moreover he must have a good _____ of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.”

I Timothy 5:10 “Well _____ of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every _____ work.”

Philippians 2:9-10 “Wherefore God also hath highly _____ him, and given him a _____ which is above every _____: That at the _____ of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;”

II Timothy 2:19 “Nevertheless the _____ of God standeth sure, having this _____, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the _____ of Christ depart from _____.”

VIRTUE

The Greek word is ἀρετῆ (aretē) – Goodness, Gracious Act, Virtue, Uprightness, Excellence, Strong, Wealth

“If there be any virtue ...” If we can claim any “goodness”, it will be because we filled our minds with these good thoughts. It is certain there will be no virtue if we do not think on these things!

Fill in the blanks (KJV)

Think about what is VIRTUE

Proverbs 31:10-12 “Who can find a _____ woman? for her price is far above _____. The heart of her husband doth safely _____ in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him _____ and not _____ all the days of her life.”

Proverbs 31:29 “Many daughters have done _____, but thou _____ them all.”

Proverbs 12:4 “A _____ woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.”

Luke 6:19 “And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went _____ out of him, and healed them all.”

Matthew 19:17 “And he said unto him, Why callest thou me _____? There is none _____ but one, that is, _____: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.”

John 1:11 “Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is _____. He that doeth _____ is of _____: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.”

John 17:21 “That they all may be _____; as thou, Father, art in _____, and I in _____, that _____ also may be one in _____: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.”

Matthew 5:16 “Let _____ light so shine before men, that they may see your _____ works, and glorify your _____ which is in heaven.”

PRAISE

The Greek word is ἔπαινος (epainos) – Praiseworthy, Commendation, Praise, Approval, A Commendable Thing

“If there be any praise ...” If we are worthy of any “praise” or “approval”, it will be because we made the effort to think on these things. However, let’s remember who we need approval from!

Fill in the blanks (KJV)

Think about what is PRAISE

John 12:43 “For they loved the praise of _____ more than the praise of God.”

II Corinthians 3:1 “Do we begin again to _____ ourselves? or need we, as some others, epistles of _____ to you, or letters of _____ from you?”

II Corinthians 10:18 “For not he that commendeth himself is _____, but whom the Lord _____.”

II Timothy 2:15 “Study to shew thyself _____ unto _____, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Romans 14:18-19 “For he that in these things _____ Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of _____. Let us therefore follow after the things which make for _____, and things wherewith one may _____ another.”

Romans 15:11 “And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and _____ him, all ye people.”

Hebrews 2:12 “Saying, I will _____ thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing _____ unto thee.”

I Peter 2:13-15 “Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the _____ sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the _____ of evildoers, and for the _____ of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well _____ ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:”

Philippians 1:10 “That ye may _____ things that are _____; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ.”