

Philippians 4:8-9 - - Think On These Things

Sunday AM 08/07/22

Introduction:

Indoctrination – telling the person what to think, committing to memory, to control. Instruction – to teach a person how to think in a logical manner. To learn and apply what they have learned. There is a difference between indoctrination and instruction. Christianity is one of instruction.

I. MEDITATE – TO THINK, GIVE SERIOUS THOUGHT TO.

A. Basic truths

1. Our actions start with our thoughts. Where the head goes the body follows.

7 For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. "Eat and drink!" he says to you, But his heart is not with you. Proverbs 23:7

2. We can control our thoughts – give attention to.
3. God knows and judges our thoughts,

"12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Hebrews 4:12

4. There is a battle for our minds,

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ," 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

5. GIGO – what we feed ourselves affects how we feel and how we react, both physically and spiritually.

6. The mouth reveals what is in our hearts,

"16 So Jesus said, "Are you also still without understanding? 17 Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? 18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. 20 These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man." Matthew 15:16-20

7. Our thoughts can be either good or bad.

B. Our reaction to wrong

1. We know some thing is wrong and are repulsed by it.
2. We know it is wrong and would not do it.
3. We know it is wrong and can sympathize with it.
4. We know it is wrong but refuse to condemn it.
5. We desire to commit sin but do not because it is wrong.
6. We desire to commit sin but do not because of the consequences or lack of opportunity.
7. We desire and even move toward the sin.
8. We commit the sin and feel guilty and ashamed.
9. We commit the sin and feel good about it.
10. We commit the sin and defend it.

II. CONTROL YOUR THOUGHTS

A. True – there are a lot of lies out there (of the devil), we are to desire the truth,

32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

John 8:32.

1. The truth about God. What the Bible really teaches about God?
2. Eternity and the condition of our soul.
 - a. Where nothing is wrong, nothing is right.
 - b. Sin is deceptive, lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.
3. We should desire the truth both in word and conduct.

B. Honest, worthy of praise (Noble)

"12 having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation." 1 Peter 2:12

1. Of sound mind.
 - a. How to dress properly, fitting speech.
 - b. Opposite of dirty jokes.
2. There are some things which deserve our attention.

C. Right, just – idea of fairness

1. What is good for the goose is good for the gander. Hypocrisy is an enemy of "just"
2. Some use justice for selfish reasons other are trying to be just.

D. Pure – undefiled, clean, morally pure

1. Things that are defiled, unclean, morally repulsive: Pornography, literature, movies, Tabloids, a lot of things on the internet.
2. Why would people want to fill their minds with garbage?

E. Beautiful, lovely (attractive, agreeable, amiable, pleasing)

1. Peace, joy, and love are all beautiful.
2. People with these qualities are pleasing to be around, have a beautiful soul

F. Good report – well-sounding, praiseworthy, attractive, pleasing

1. One of the qualifications for being an elder, was have a good report, **1 Timothy 3.7**

G. Virtue – courage and valor, moral excellence.

1. A big concept word which incorporates all of these qualities.

H. Do not be afraid to think on these things

1. Seems strange but some people are afraid of the truth, being noble and a noble-minded people, righteousness and justice, those who are pure, and those of virtue.
2. Why? Because they condemn those who are believing lies, un noble, unrighteous and unjust, etc.

I. What do you spend your time thinking of?

1. Why is it we have time for television, hobbies, sports, recreation, but little for Bible study, evangelism, gospel meetings, and classes?
2. Where the head goes the body (soul) will follow.

III. LEARNING TO LIVE, V. 9

A. We learn by:

1. What we hear – the oracles of God, teaching, and preaching.

2. What we read
3. What we see done.
4. What we do

B. Our task is to take these things

1. Live by what we have learned as opposed to doing by rote (simply like trained animals).
2. To know the principles and be committed to them.

Conclusion:

If you do these things the peace of God will be with you.