



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

STAND FIRM WITH YOUR MIND, Part 3- PHILIPPIANS 4:8

WYOMING

MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2012

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Paul exhorts believers to stand firm by having minds that are continuously and repeatedly captivated by God and His Word. In Philippians 4:8, Paul commands us to “think on these things”. It is critical that we understand the battle waged being in our minds and in our hearts! We are called to repeatedly, constantly and daily; study, think, ponder, and consider with fervent thought-- our God and what He says about Himself in His Word. Only in this way will we remain purely devoted to our Lord and be able to stand firm and not be deceived, falter or fall. Last week we studied what it meant to think on what is true! If there was any question about what was true, our Lord clarifies that unmistakably in John 17:17. Truth is God’s Word and it is through His Word that God will mature and sanctify us for His work. We are to read, meditate, think, analyze, consider, and even calculate on God’s Word continually throughout each day of our lives. It’s not just once or twice a day, but repeatedly throughout our day. We need our minds to be saturated with God and His Word, thinking on what is true because temptation and deception are at every turn.

I. **THINK ON THESE THINGS+** PHILIPPIANS 4:8

“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.” Philippians 4:8

Paul commands us to use our minds in a considering, calculating way on “these things”. Last week we focused on “whatever is true”. Is there any doubt as to why Paul would begin there? God’s Word is true and sufficient for all of life. In His Word, God discloses Himself for us to know personally and intimately. God reveals His sufficiency for salvation, for living, for joy and satisfaction, for clear understanding, and for all that is necessary in purifying the soul. There is no lack in God’s Word. The testimony of God Himself is that His Word is sufficient for all of life. Now let’s continue with Paul’s exhortations.

A. **WHATSOEVER IS HONORABLE+** PHILIPPIANS 4:8

Believers are to set their minds on the things of God. That means we view life from a divine perspective. If we allow God’s thoughts and perspectives to dominate our thoughts and fill our minds, then, His desires become our desires and His will becomes our will. So what does it mean to think on what is honorable?

honorable+Greek word **semnos+**means inspiring to respect, reverence, worship to God, nobility, to worship.

We are to think on that which is heavenly and worthy of respect. Paul isn’t talking about trivia or the temporal. He exhorts us to think about the sacred verses the profane, to think about what is eternal verses what is temporary. It is dwelling on those things which are worthy of respect.

B. **WHATSOEVER IS RIGHT+** PHILIPPIANS 4:8

Paul wants us to think in harmony with God’s divine standard of holiness.

right+Greek word **diakaios+**means just, that which is right, that which is expected by the one who sets the rules and regulations whereby man must live.

No this is not talking about legislators. Paul wants us to think on the things that are in “perfect harmony” with God standards as set forth in His Word. Scripture provides a clear understanding of what just is and therefore directs our minds in right thinking.

C. **WHATSOEVER IS PURE+** PHILIPPIANS 4:8

Paul wants us to think on that which is not mixed with any elements that would defile that mind in any way.

pure+Greek word **hagnos+**means free from defilements, impurities, that which is morally clean and undefiled.

To think on what is pure is to let your mind dwell only on what is morally clean and virtuous.

D. **WHATSOEVER IS LOVELY+** PHILIPPIANS 4:8

We are called to have our mind focused and constantly dwelling on whatever is kind or gracious. “Lovely” appears only in here in Philippians 4:8 and nowhere else in the New Testament.

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS, GOVERNOR, STAFF & SPOUSES: MONDAY, 6:30AM, BREAKFAST SERVED

WYOMING STATE CAPITOL

Wyoming

Stand Firm With Your Mind, Part 3, Philippians 4:8

%lovely+Greek word **%prospiles+** meaning pleasing, amiable, gracious, sweet.

This word gives the idea of sweet graciousness, one who is pleasant and one who tends towards a loving approach towards others with a caring heart. Therefore we are to focus on what is kind, sweet and gracious and we are to have those same thoughts towards others.

E. **%WHATEVER IS OF GOOD REPORT+** PHILIPPIANS 4:8

Paul exhorts us think on that which is highly regarded, that which is well spoken of. There are many things that compete for our attention. Satan certainly desires to captivate our thoughts with the exact opposite of what is true, noble, just, pure and lovely. Satan wants us to dwell on evil and temptation with the sole motive to distract our minds from what pleases God and leads us into sin. When that happens, we fall and do not stand firm! It is critical that we understand the importance of Paul's message to have our minds continually fixed and focused on "*these things*".

%good report+Greek word **%euphemos+** means that which has a good ring, highly regarded or well thought of.

This word can be found only in this text as well. It refers to that which is highly regarded or that which has a good ring. Once again, we must turn to God's Word and there we find what is highly regarded by God and pleasing in His sight! That is what we are to think on.

Each exhortation Paul gives continues to build on the first, "*whatever is true.*" It is from the truth of God's Word that we can go back and determine what is lovely, what is of good report, what is pure, what is right, what is honorable. God has given us His Word providing clear direction for our mind, our thoughts. We must continually be meditating on His Word day and night.

F. **%IF THERE IS ANY EXCELLENCE, IF ANYTHING WORTHY OF PRAISE+** PHILIPPIANS 4:8

Paul final exhortation is to concentrate on things that are noble, just, with virtue, moral excellency and goodness of action. If there is any mental

excellence or moral quality then we are to think on those things. If there is some commendation or something to boast about, then we are to think on those things. It is almost as if, or incase Paul somehow omitted something, he concludes with a summarizing statement that includes all that is excellent or worthy of praise. .

Keep in mind that Paul was sitting in a jail and chained to a Roman guard twenty-four hours a day. Instead of being concerned with his circumstances, Paul is focused on pressing forward, focused on the noble things regardless of the circumstances! And Paul's exhortation is for us to do the same!

Paul exhorts believers to stand firm by having minds that are continuously and repeatedly captivated by God and His Word. In Philippians 4:8, Paul commands us to "*think on these things*". It is critical that we understand the battle is waged in our minds and in our hearts! We are called to repeatedly, constantly and daily; study, think, ponder, and consider with fervent thought-- our God and what He says about Himself in His Word. Only in this way will we remain purely devoted to our Lord and be able to stand firm and not be deceived, falter or fall.

How scarce a commodity "*thinking*" is in this world! Paul exhorts us to engage our mind and whatever is of good report, excellence, or worthy of praise, these things we are to make the subject of careful reflection in our thoughts and minds! Don't let your mind go in any other direction and believe me, you will never run out of *things* to think on!

Keep in mind, the Greek word for "*think or dwell*" is an imperative and thus a command for us. It is not an option in order to stand firm! Not only is it a command, but the word is a present imperative, meaning it involves continuous and repeated action. We are to read, meditate, think, analyze, consider, and even calculate on God's Word continually throughout each day of our lives. It's not just once or twice a day, but repeatedly throughout our day. We need our minds to be saturated with God and His Word, thinking on what is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, of good report, on excellence or anything worthy of praise because temptation and deception are at every turn. So believer; choose the best things to think on, pursue the highest things with our mind and so stand firm and please God!