

Phil. 4

Joy and Mind are two key words in this book. Found over 25 times i four short chapters.

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

Phil. 4:6-9

Let us pray

You may be seated

THE IMPORTANCE OF GOVERNING OUR THOUGHTS.

OUR MINDS SHOULD BE OCCUPIED WITH THE CONTEMPLATION OF GOOD THINGS. **Vs. 8**

It is vital, of utmost importance, that we think properly!

Biblical Mind, Phil. 2:5 - Think like Christ.

We must have a wholesome and holy thought life!

What occupies our minds? Our thought patterns?

Our stability is a result of how we think.

James 1:8 A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.

Vs. 8 Finally – conclusion, summation, top of the hill, here it is

As to what remains, final encouragement.

Whatever things - everything that is.... THE Entirety

God gives us permission to think in 8 realms.

These are the areas that our minds should be devoted to and focused on.

The battle in the mind. The battle for the mind.

Wrong thinking and wrong thoughts, how many of us have done that? This passage is speaking to every person in this room.

It is hard to govern the thoughts of the mind.

Younger people are living in the lava period of their mind. yet to harden

Their Minds are flexible, moldable, stretchable, shapeable. they are living in the period of discovery.

So many ideas of this and that.

In today's world, our minds are

Bombarded by snapchats, Pinterest and Facebook

Pipelines of information, drowning in the constant flow. Unlike any other time in history!

Amused with hundreds of channels and the world wide web at the fingertips so that there is a constant downpour of info but little thinking.

People have no time to think but simply are run throughs for whatever.

What is God's counsel in this passage?

Think on these things.

Do not allow our minds to dwell on everything, filter out/screen out and only allow in these 8 realms.

In essence, God is teaching us to protect and guard the center of our being.

God's counsel implies that we can and that we should exercise a very rigid control over our thinking.

Proverbs 25:28 He that *hath* no rule over his own spirit *is like* a city *that is* broken down, *and* without walls.

anybody and anything can invade that city.

Many of our minds are like that.

A Dumping ground for whatever.

We lock the doors to our cars, create passwords for security but never control the flow into or content of our minds.

One of the greatest things that we protect is our minds.

We must exercise control over the run and drift of our thoughts.

We must put a guard at the gate, and let in no sinful, unhealthy thoughts continue.

'Think on these things'—and what are they?

It would be impossible of me to try to exhaust the great catalogue which God gave us here, but let me say a word or two about each one.

God gave us several things to measure our thoughts and to characterize our thoughts.

1. Think on what is true.

Let our minds be exercised and be filled with truth.

Many people never come into vital contact with the highest and greatest resource of truth. The Bible!

God is true; His promises are true; His warnings are true. Christ is true; **He is** the Truth; His gospel is true.

I think it is interesting that True is first.

This should be the foundation of all our thinking.

We should not waste time by worrying/fretting/thinking about things that are not true.

When someone says something about us that is not true, how that dominates our thinking.

Many times we worry about things and think about things that never even come to pass.

We are thinking about the what ifs.

2. Think on that which is Honest, worthy of respect, honorable

Whatsoever things are *reverent*, serious, solemn, respectable and not frivolous,

There are many things that are not respectable, and as Christians we should not think about these things.

3. Think on that which is Just, right, in harmony with God and His Word!

4. Think on that which is Pure, holy, clean

This word has reference to what defiles. Not to think dirty, dirty mind.

Avoiding unholy thoughts. It is not that we do not have them, it is that we do not allow them to linger. we reject them and kick them out.

Like flies that land on our food, we shoo them away.

There must be pure thinking,

Let the mind dwell on pure themes.

5. Think on that which is Lovely

I Cor. 13

Lovely – sweet, that which is pleasing to God

6. Think on that of Good report – highly regarded

Well spoken of

7. If there be any virtue

It is therefore here employed in its widest and highest sense of moral excellence.

Raise the level of our thinking.

8. If there be any praise

Anything worthy of praise, or that ought to be praised.

Deserves commendation

Think on positive and constructive rather than negative and destructive.

We must cast out all the filth and let the lovely and the pure and the true come in instead.

Choose which thoughts to keep as company.

Would we like all our wicked thoughts, all our sinful thoughts, return and sit down beside us?

Which thoughts are our continual companions?

Here is the command: Think on these things. The mind is to dwell on these things.

We have to train our minds to a high and holy standard.

God exhorts us to cultivate habits/patterns of good, proper and holy thought.

This is why we cannot watch much television because the thoughts interjected are base, crude, spurious, ungodly, impure, unholy, degrading, sinful, and goes against this list.

In fact, most of television and most of the movies will not pass this criterion. Video games, music?

Think on these things:

Our minds are to revolve around these things.

Sooner or later what has been the drift and trend of a person's thought life comes out, flashes out sometimes, and dribbles out at other times, into visibility in his actions;

and, just as the thunder follows the lightning,
so my actions are the reverberation and after-clap of my thoughts.

So if we are entertaining in our hearts and minds vs. 8, our lives will be filled with the God of peace.

Right thinking is greatly affected by what we intake.

The Bible speaks over and over about meditation on the Word of God.

That is why the Scriptures saith:

Psalms 119:165 Great peace have they which love thy law:

Isaiah 26:3 Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on thee*:

Our lives must be built on proper thinking!

2 Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

We must control our thinking.

Think on these things, these 8 realms, we will become:

1. **BETTER.**

What a man thinks about most, will greatly influence his life.

2. **MORE**

More True, honest, just, pure, Loving, good testimony, virtues

This is Spiritual Growth!

When we become better or more, how does that affect our family? our neighbors, coworkers and nation, our Church

TRUE CHRISTIAN CHARACTER CONSISTS NOT just IN THE MERE ABSENCE OF sin in my life BUT IN THE POSSESSION AND CULTIVATION OF THE GOOD in my mind.

The mind is a terrible thing to waste.... Yet we fill it with trash and stuff it with useless materials.

The Bible says to think, to dwell on "these things".

Only by thinking on these things can their opposites be cast out.

Darkness is only to be expelled by light,

impurity by holiness,

Lying by honesty,

Now, let me ask you to think for a moment *why* this counsel is given to us?

because thought molds action.

Proverbs 23:7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so *is* he:

God gives A DIRECTION FOR THOUGHT — "Think on these things." Vs. 8

God gives A DIRECTION FOR PRACTICE — "These things do." Vs. 9

These thoughts lead to holy lifestyle and living.

Often the failure to live godly is the failure of our thought life.

Paul was able to illustrate this by his own life.

Nothing enforces teaching so powerfully as the example of the teacher.

God gave them a rule of thought; and Paul exhibited this in his own life.

Paul writes this letter from a jail cell, facing who knows what, yet his thoughts are positive and he thought on these things.

Paul lived what he preached and he preached by his living.

His life spoke just like his lips.

Learned and Received from his oral teaching

Heard his words and saw his example

Look at what it says in vs. 9 **and Seen in ME.**

Do it.

NIKE - Just Do IT.

It is one thing to learn a truth, but quite another to make it a part of our life. Apply it.

Facts in the head are not enough. We must have these truths in our living.

In Paul's ministry, he not only taught the Word of God, but he also lived it.

The Obedient life to God's Word is missing too often in believers.

But be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only/deceiving your own selves. James 1:22

Think True, be true

In speech. Tell the truth and not lie.

Lying is contrary to the nature of God.

Ephesians 4:25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

Ephesians 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth,

Think Honesty, be honest

2 Corinthians 8:21 Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

1 Peter 2:12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles:

Think Just, be just

Deuteronomy 16:20 That which is altogether just shalt thou follow

Think Pure, be pure**Think Lovely, be loving****Think Good Report, be a good testimony**

1 Timothy 3:7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; Courtesy, kindness, respect of parents – even a child is known by his doings.

Think Virtue, be virtuous

The Christian should be a pattern and example of every virtue.

Seen in me Paul Said.

I was in the Philippian jail and what did we do. Praying and singing and praising the Lord. In everything Pray

Forget the past (chief of sinners, blasphemed), and Press on

Not to complain but he has learned to be content.

We have heard and we can mentally see his life on these pages.

Learned and Received!

Heard and Seen!

Then join me and Do them!

These things do'—as we certainly will if we think about them, and we certainly will not if we do not think about them.

But there is one more word that I must say in answer to the question how can we do this?

All these things, true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report, are not things only; they are embodied in a Person.

These things meet in Jesus Christ, and He is the sum of all virtue and of all praise.

So that if we link ourselves to Him by faith, and take Him into our hearts and minds, and abide in Him and His Word, we can have the peace of God and the God of peace.

Let us stand for closing invitation

Where is our thinking?

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

What are the influences of my mind?

Country music,

Scary movies

Bloody video games

Vicious fighting in a cage

The news programs

Ungodly friends

Wicked language

Alcohol

Worried, fretting, burdened down

We must have a wholesome thought life!

What are we filling our minds with?

What am I thinking about?

The Bible

Biblical thinking and get rid of all the other thoughts.

Biblical Mind.

The transforming power of thought:

think on these things:

meditate upon them,

I am afraid there are some of us who have become so accustomed to low thinking and low living, our thoughts are full of the the wicked, the lustful, the impure, the frivolous,

the contemptible, that we have lost all disposition to rise to the lofty, the pure, and the true.

What is a man whose life has been one long thought about money-making, or about other greedy ambitions, or about the lusts of the flesh, and the lusts of the eye, and the pride of life?

When we think wrong, sin and practice wrong living, how can we have peace?

Sin grieves the Holy Spirit!

Today's religion thinks wonderful and lofty and talks about virtue, grace and love but there is no doing.

If we allow the wrong thoughts to control our minds, worry comes in and strangles and pulls us in defeat.

Turn this precept right round about, and whatsoever things are illusory and vain, whatsoever things are frivolous, and contemptible, whatsoever things are unjust, and whatsoever things are impure, and whatsoever things are ugly,

Like the flies that are attracted to manure, people are drawn by all the lustful, the lewd, the impure thoughts; gossip and slander,

There are plenty of occasions round about you to force the opposite upon your notice; and, unless you shut your door fast, and double-lock it, they will be sure to come in.

And there is not a thought that comes into, and is entertained by a man, but contributes its own little but appreciable something to the making of the man's character.

When we look around the world, and see all these buildings, inventions, and machines, they are all embodied thoughts.

There was a thought at the back of each of them which took shape.

We come into the world with certain dispositions and bias.

But that is not character, it is only the raw material of character.

My thoughts affect my actions. Thoughts and actions make character.