

What Are You Thinking...?

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Text: Philippians 4:8-9

Summary: Paul admonishes the Philippians to control their thinking processes and to apply what they have learned.

Introduction: Today many are creating God to fit their lives so they won't have to change the way they live. Christians are to align their thinking with the Word of God and then practice what they are thinking and live out what they are learning. Thinking right = doing right.

I. A Guideline for Thinking. (Philippians 4:8)

- After encouraging the Philippians to rejoice in the Lord and to go to God with their needs, Paul instructs them in their thought life and what is pleasing to God.
- “Whatever is true” What is our method of determining what is truth? How do we apply that measure to our own thought life? What is the outcome of a “spiritual thought life” not grounded in truth?
- “Whatever is noble” Does our thought life and corresponding actions honor God? What is an example in life where our thought life and actions honored God? Is this way of testing our thoughts a habit? How can one know whether their thoughts honor God?
- “Whatever is right” Are we following a path that leads to God or destruction? Are our decisions in concert with God? How can we tell if our thinking is in concert with what God thinks is right? What interferes with right thinking? What can we do to eliminate interference with right thinking?
- “Whatever is pure” We decide for the most part what enters our minds through our eyes and ears. What steps do we take to control what we see and hear? What is our method of measurement in determining what is pure in what we watch or listen to. How do we determine if God is pleased with our viewing/listening habits? What is the impact of “a little sinful pleasure?” How do we rationalize our enjoyment of non-pure media?
- “Whatever is excellent or praiseworthy” What does being authentic or transparent mean?

II. A Life of Learning and Practicing. (Philippians 4:9)

- Paul encourages the Philippians to put into action what they have learned.
- Are you living what you know? Is the Sunday sermon an intellectual exercise or a call to action? If it is a call to action, how do we act upon what we have learned?