

“Think on these things”

Philippians 4:8

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“Finally, Brethren,
whatever things are **TRUE**,
whatever things are **HONORABLE**,
whatever things are **JUST**,
whatever things are **PURE**,
whatever things are **LOVELY**,
whatever things are **OF GOOD REPORT**,
if there is any **VIRTUE** and if there is any
PRAISE (ANYTHING PRAISEWORTHY, NKJV)
– meditate on these things”

Philippians 4:9, “*The things which ye both learned and received and heard and saw in me, these things do: and the God of peace shall be with you.*”

INTRODUCTION

Our Lord is the “God of peace” –
Philippians 4:7-9

- This peace is beyond man’s full comprehension since all men sin – Romans 5:6-11
- Peace with God is made possible by the reconciliation of sinful man through the blood of Christ. cf. Ephesians 2:14ff
- Colossians 1:18-22; Hebrews 9:22; 1 John 1:9

INTRODUCTION

This peace guards the hearts and minds of faithful saints who are described as being:

- “**in Christ**” – “**in the Lord**” – “**in Him**” – “**through Christ**”
 - Philippians 1:14; 2:19, 24, 29
 - Philippians 3:1, 3, 9, 14
 - Philippians 4:1, 2, 4, 7, 10, 21
- These expressions refer to **saints** who were in a faithful relationship to the Lord’s authorized words.
 - Colossians 3:17

whatever things are ...

TRUE (*alethes*)

Keep your minds on what is “**true**” as opposed to things that are **false**.

“Literally, not hidden, unconcealed.” (Thayer)

Paul warned of false teachers – Philippians 3:1-2

- **This word is also used to exhort Christians to ponder on the *reality* of the promises of God, and their responsibility to God and man and especially to keep in memory the heavenly reward.**
 - Philippians 2:12-16; Romans 11:22

whatever things are ...**NOBLE** (*semnos*)

Christians are to ponder "honorable" things.

"August, venerable, reverend; to be venerated for character, honorable: of persons (A.V., grave)" (Thayer).

This word suggest to have one's mind filled with the thoughts of God – Romans 8:1-4

- **A Christian's mind must ponder the great "reverend, august, holy, and awful" name of God.**
- Psalms 111:9-10
- **The Christian must have a mind filled with the thoughts of God and His truths – 1 John 4:1-6**

whatever things are ...**JUST** (*dikaios*)

Suggests that which is exact, rigid, right, lawful, just, and true.

- **The Christian is to ponder on "just" things especially God's truths**
- This implies the standard by which men are judged – the word of God – John 12:48
- "**Just**" represents the state of the Christian in relationship to the standard of God's word – Romans 5:1-9; Hebrews 10:38

whatever things are ...**PURE** (*hagnos*)

"Pure"

- This means thoughts that are "properly, clean, i.e. (figuratively) innocent, modest, perfect: – chaste, clean, pure" – **Strong**
- **The mind of the Christian should think on things that represent the standard of truth as opposed to things that are an *affront* to truth.**
- The "**works of the flesh**" (offense to God) – Galatians 5:19-21; Matthew 15:18-20
- Titus 2:1-5; James 3:17; 1 Peter 3:1-2

whatever things are ...**LOVELY**, *prospiles*

- This is the only place this Greek word is used in the New Testament.
- Thoughts that should be "dear, beloved ... of things: pleasing, agreeable, grateful, dear ... of persons: kindly affection (ed), grateful, well disposed" – **Liddell and Scott**
- **Christians should think thoughts that are kind and grateful and have a godly demeanor.**
- Philippians 2:1-3; Romans 12:9-10

whatever things are ...**OF GOOD REPORT** (*euphemos*)

Defined as things that are "auspicious, well-sounding, praiseworthy, attractive, pleasing" – **Arndt and Gingrich**

- "What rings true to the highest standard" as a note of a tune in a song that rings true to the previous notes.
- **Do not think on words or doctrines that cannot save – ponder on the teachings of Christ that lead to the forgiveness of sins - 2 Peter 1:1-11**

Paul's Summary**VIRTUE and PRAISEWORTHY**

The attributes of a Christian are to be both "virtuous" and "praiseworthy" according to Paul.

- "**Virtue**" (*arete*) – (moral excellence and righteousness; goodness), uprightness – **Moulton**
- "**Praise**" (*epinaos*) – "approval, praise, commendation" – **Liddell and Scott**
 - "Praise, applause, honor paid, ground or reason of praise or commendation ... approval" – **Moulton**
- **These six virtues describe the Christian's moral excellence and approved state before God.**

MEDITATE ON THESE THINGS

“**Meditate, think**” (*logizomai*) – “to count reckon, calculate, compute ... without reference to numbers: to take into account, calculate, consider that ... to count, deem, consider, that ... to conclude by reasoning, infer that a thing is ...” – **Liddell and Scott**

► **Paul encourages the Philippians to “meditate” on six things with the end in view of receiving the peace of God.**

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 (**anything PRAISEWORTHY NKJV**) – **THINK / meditate on these things**”