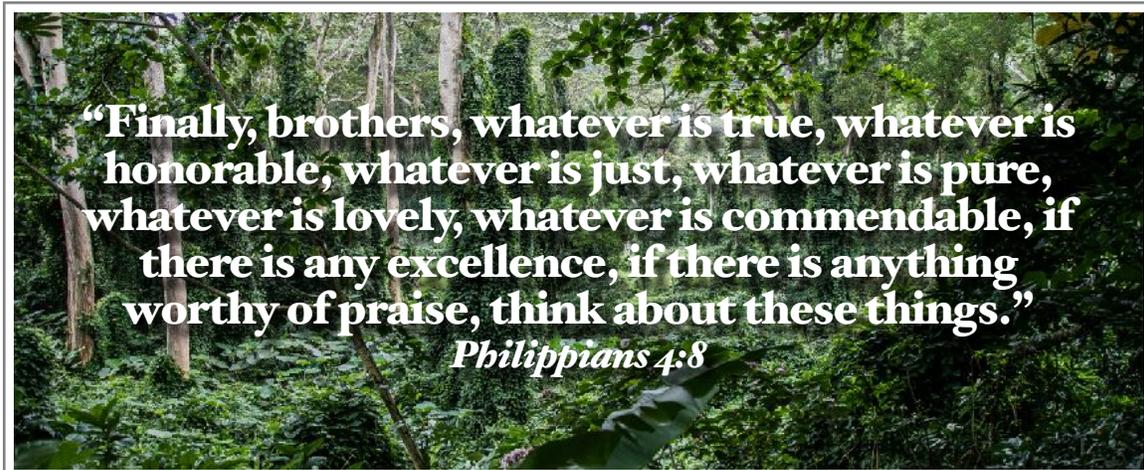


Daily View

“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” Hebrews 3:13

January 4, 2021



How many times did Jesus ask someone, “*What do you think?*” or “*Do you think...?*” Jesus spoke to those who were willing to think, to consider, to contemplate (see Matthew 17:25; 18:12; 21:28; 22:42; Luke 10:36; 13:2, 4). Paul said in I Corinthians 14:20, “*Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.*” Christianity is for people who are willing to think — and everyone is able to think, but not everyone does. An older preacher friend of mind liked to say, “*it’s not **what** people think, it’s **whether** they do.*” Some people just don’t want to think; they seem to have no interest in broadening their horizons. They think they’ve “arrived” (*yikes!*).

F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote: “*The test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposing ideas in mind at the same time and still retain the ability to function.*” I’m not claiming to have a first-rate intelligence, by any means, but I have learned by experience that the famous author was on to something. Perhaps Jesus’ statement to “*render to Caesar the things are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s*” is an illustration of this principle. That requires that we think about what are Caesar’s and what are God’s and also that we consider what might cause the two aims to be in conflict. The point is that two things can be true at one time. Not everything is mutually exclusive.

For Christians, there are many things that are not matters of judgment or opinion and not open to debate. Some things are clear as a bell and, in those matters, an “open mind” may close the door to heaven for those who are “*always leaning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth*” (II Tim. 3:7).

On the other hand, there are many ideas, concepts and beliefs about which there is less clarity; perhaps even more that are a matter of personal conviction and judgment. If we are unwilling to consider other viewpoints on issues that fall into these categories then we may lose the ability to function properly, especially in our relationship with others. Forbear-

ance of other views is crucial to peace in the church (Eph. 4:2; the word “bearing with one another” means “tolerance” in the best sense of that word). Willingness to listen to ideas that are different than yours is also a mark of Christian love.

One of the favorite sayings I’ve ever heard is “*have an open mind but not so open that your brains fall out.*” I like it because what it is saying is that we need to give serious thought to things we believe and promote. In other words, we need to **think**, and think hard. Others can help. Proverbs 27:17 says, “*Iron sharpens iron and one man sharpens another*” but that only happens if we let the other man sharpen us! Closing one’s mind to differing opinions, when they are clearly opinions, is a recipe for trouble in any relationship. Think about that.

Update

The elders have decided to retain the tent for our assemblies, at least for another month. If you’ve heard that there is a post-holiday “surge” in Covid cases, you heard right. We expect to be meeting in the tent for at least a few more weeks. We had a total of 206 in attendance at the three services yesterday with about 100 (44 logins) opting for livestream. Yesterday, we had the best weather we’ve had since we began this stint in the tent but that’s not likely to be the norm, so dress warmly.

In some of the prayers yesterday, the men asked God to hasten the day when we are able to all meet together in our building. That this an appropriate prayer, a petition that all of us should include in our daily prayers (in my opinion).

In other news, some of our students — **Paiton Cain, Lexi Cain and Jude Clark** — will be leaving later this week to go back to Florida College; **Ethan Zugnoni** will be going back to Arizona next Monday. It’s been great having them here for an extended time (although, of course, we’re not happy that it took Covid to make that happen). Pray for their safe return and that God will keep them safe while far away from us.

*Unless otherwise indicated the opinions expressed in this publication and images used are solely those of David Posey.
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