

## **THE RIGHT STUFF**

### **Philippians 4:8-9**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

- A. The movie, *The Right Stuff* (1983).
  - 1. A similar movie to “*Top Gun*,” but focused on the race to outer space.
  - 2. Navy, Marine and Air Force test pilots involved in aeronautical research.
  - 3. Seven pilots selected for the first manned space flight, Project Mercury.
  - 4. At the end of the movie, Chuck Yeager proves he has the Right Stuff, by surviving a high-speed ejection.
- B. We could ask the same question as Christians.
  - 1. Do you have the “right stuff” to be a follower of Christ?
  - 2. What do we need to have to be recognized as having the “right stuff”?
- C. Paul outlines some of what it takes as he nears the end of his letter.

#### **I. THE RIGHT TRAITS.**

- A. List of Traits (Defined), vs. 8.
  - 1. True – things or people, genuine or real.
  - 2. Honorable [grave, Gr] – noble (NIV); worthy of reverence (Amp).
    - a. Describes things which are lofty, majestic, and lift the mind to the noble, good and moral worth.
  - 3. Right [just] – doing what is right, whether for man or God.
  - 4. Pure – translated from the word for “holy” – morally undefiled.
  - 5. Lovely – evokes a response of love; lovely, lovable, or pleasing.
  - 6. Good repute [report] – well-spoken of, respectable.
- B. Two Conditional Phrases:
  - 1. “If” is used as in 2:1 – and there is.
  - 2. If there is any excellence [virtue, moral goodness].
    - a. Excellence is what the righteous are to maintain in life or in death.
  - 3. If there is anything worthy of praise.
  - 4. In other words, “*If there is any excellence – there is; and if there is anything worthy of praise – there is...then dwell on these things.*”

#### **II. THE RIGHT THINKING.**

- A. Dwell on These Things.
  - 1. Think carefully and thoughtfully.
  - 2. We seem to always be in a rush – must take time to think...
  - 3. Ralph Waldo Emerson, “A man is what he thinks about all day long.”
  - 4. Pr. 4:23, “*Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.*”
  - 5. Pr. 23:7, “*For as he thinks within himself, so he is.*”
- B. Meditation.
  - 1. Song, “I Woke Up This Morning with my mind,  
Where was your mind? Centered on Jesus.”
  - 2. Ps. 1:2, “*But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.*”
  - 3. Ps. 119:97, “*O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.*”

### III. THE RIGHT TEACHING.

- A. Heard. Acts 20:20, 27
  - 1. What had been declared to them.
  - 2. The whole purpose [counsel] of God.
  - 3. 2 Thess. 2:15
- B. Learned.
  - 1. What is comprehended (understood) and remembered.
- C. Seen.
  - 1. Examples: 1 Tim. 4:12; Titus 2:7
  - 2. The need to set an example for those around.
  - 3. Follow the example of faithful men and women who have gone before.
- D. Received.
  - 1. Receive the teach and accepting the truth for yourself.
    - a. Dt. 4:4-5 (Mk. 12:29-30), “Hear, O Israel...”
    - b. “Hear” is to “obey”, Gen. 22:18.
  - 2. Claim the eternal truths as your own.

### IV. THE RIGHT TRAINING.

- A. Practice These Things.
  - 1. Practice is to perform repeatedly in order to acquire a skill.
  - 2. An entertainer’s wife suggested her husband’s one shortcoming, “He hates the ‘p’ word.”
  - 3. Live the life the Lord wants you to live.
  - 4. Mt. 7:21, “...he who does the will of the Father.”
- B. Habit.
  - 1. It is repeating an action until it becomes natural.
  - 2. Our lives are filled with such habits (good).
    - a. (i.e., tying our shoes,...)
  - 3. Some are unwilling to develop the skills of a Christian.

### CLOSING

- A. “**AND**...*The God of Peace.*”
  - 1. Paul’s favorite benediction.
  - 2. The reverse of vs. 7, the peace of God.
- B. God will be with you.
  - 1. If you think on these things.
  - 2. If you live this life.
  - 3. Then, the God peace will be with you.