

What Do You Think?

Philippians 4:8-9

REVIEW (Ph.4)

I. Stand Firm In Lord, 1

II. Be United In Lord, 2-3

III. Rejoice In Lord, 2-3

IV. Moderation In All Things, 5

V. Do Not Be Anxious, 6-7

What do you think?

Our answer reveals our eternal destiny

1. Stinking thinking afflicts most people.

- Thoughts run in channels.
 - Prov.4:23, Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.
 - Prov.23:7, For as he thinks in his heart, so is he...
 - Ac.8:22, Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.

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3. Change of life and behavior occurs when we change our thinking.
4. We can control our thoughts – Ph.4:8.
5. “Finally” – parting command.
 - 8 links to 6-7 (“peace”).
 - Requires –
 - (1) Proper thinking, v.8.
 - (2) Proper conduct, v.9.

VI. Think These Things, 8

Think (KJV; ESV; NRSV)

Meditate (NKJV)

Ponder (NASB)

- Dwell on; constantly think about [habit]
- Our greatest conflict: battle for the mind
- Ro.1:28, And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting...

Think **these things**

- Ph.3:15-16
 - Replace stinking thinking with good
 - Ro.12:2, And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

What things?

1. **True:** honest (assumes knowledge). Ep.4:21
2. **Noble:** honorable, worthy, holy, above reproach (things of worthy character; produced by truth).
3. **Just:** right; lawful, Ep.4:24.
4. **Pure:** cf. 1:17.
5. **Lovely:** valuable, pleasing, attractive, beautiful.
6. **Of good report:** speaking well of. 2:19-30.
7. **Virtue:** 2 Pt.1:3, 5. Excellence; merit.
8. **Praise:** Ro.2:29.

Pass judgment on every thought

If we surrender one thought, we...

1. Reflect badly on God. 2 Sm.12:14; Ro.2:24
2. Leave ourselves open to any evil.
3. Evil thoughts knock; don't let them in.

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ – 2 Co.10:4-5

VI. Think These Things, 8

VII. Do These Things, 9

Learned, Received – what Paul taught

1. Learned –

- From Jesus, Mt.11:29
 - He sent apostles, Ph.4:9
 - They sent others, Ph.2:19
- Remain in things learned, Ep.4:...20

Learned, Received – what Paul taught

1. Learned –

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17 Now I urge you, brethren, **note** those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and **avoid** them.

18 For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the **hearts** of the simple – Romans 16.

Learned, Received – what Paul taught

1. Learned –
2. **Received** – t.t. for receiving a tradition (1 Co.11:23; 15:3).

Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle – 2 Th.2:15

Pitcher and catcher

1. Desire. Ph.1, Paul.
2. Passion. Ph.2, Timothy / Epaphroditus.
3. Honesty. Ph.3, Paul.
4. Duty. Ph.4, Paul's example.
5. Humility. Ac.16

Heard, Seen – what Paul did (example)

1. Learned –
2. Received –
3. **Heard** – before written, spoken.
 - Basic (root): Ac.2:37.
 - Applied: Mt.13; 17; 18.
 - Ph.4:2-3.

Heard, Seen – what Paul did (example)

1. Learned –
2. Received –
3. Heard –
4. **Seen** – approved apostolic examples
 - Time machine: Corinth

¹⁶ Therefore I urge you, imitate me. ¹⁷ For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church – 1 Co.4

Do

1. Learned
2. Received
3. Heard
4. Seen

Command to do examples.

Continual practice.

Biblical model: thinking and doing

- Mt.7:24-27
- Command to follow approved examples.
Ph.3:17
 - Ac.14:23
 - Ac.20:7

Result of doing...

God of peace will be with you

4:2-3?

Is.26:3, You will keep *him* in perfect peace,
Whose mind is stayed on You..."

1. He blesses life modeled on biblical pattern.
2. Peace of God (7) from God of peace (9).

Summary

6-7: Talk to God

8: Think like God

9: Thirst for word of God

Summary

Talk to God...Think like God...Thirst for word

- a. **Job 23¹²** I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.
- b. **'I'd rather see a sermon than hear one . . .'**
(Ph.3:17; Gal.2:20) . . . (1 Tim.4:12; Tit.2:10)
- c. **World is watching, Mt.5:16.**

Beauty of this character is not based on one gigantic virtue but life consistent in all.