

HEAVENLY HEADS

Sermon Outline

An Exposition of Philippians 4:8-9
By Pastor Brent Tremblay, Sunday, May 24, 2020

Theme: Our attention is drawn to a list of virtues to think about and practice.

1. Things To Think About (v 8) “think about these things”

Word “whatever”, i.e. these features are acceptable wherever you find them.

- i. Truth – in contrast to everything that is a lie. Must cling to God’s truth. (Eph 6:14)
- ii. Honourable – decent, principled, respectful. Our thoughts are to be elevated and in keeping with who we are as God’s heavenly citizens. (Col 3:2)
- iii. Justice – that which is fair, right, equitable. Believers need to measure what we deem fair and just next to God’s justice. (Prov 20:23)
- iv. Purity – clean, morally undefiled, untainted. Christ our pure sacrifice. The person with a pure heart is given the promise of seeing God. (Mat 5:8)
- v. Loveliness – attractive - Christ is unattractive to world, but “altogether lovely” to the believer. (Song 5:16)
- vi. Commendable – well-spoken of
- vii. Excellent and Worthy of Praise– vs. mediocrity - everything God does is perfect/inspires us to do the same.

2. Things To Practice (v 9) “practice these things”

- i. Paul was willing to set himself up as an example for others.
- ii. What we think reveals our spiritual appetite. (Prov 23:7) NASB
- iii. Transformation is not automatic. It requires constant cooperation with God (Eph 4:23; Rom 12:2; Mat 22:37-38; 2 Cor 10:3-6)
- iv. When we practice these things, we are assured of God’s very presence in our lives. The “peace of God” (v7) becomes the “God of peace” (v 9).

Bible Study Questions

1. Why do you think Paul draws our attention to our 'thought life'? What are the benefits of paying attention to these virtues?
2. Why is "truth" first on the list? (Eph 6:14)
3. How is anyone to know what true fairness is? Who and what is the standard for justice?
4. Can an individual with an impure mind have fellowship with God? Discuss.
5. What do you find most attractive in life?
6. Why are the words "mediocrity" and "half-heartedness" not in God's vocabulary? Should they be in ours? If not, how would this affect the way we live?
7. What does our thought life reveal about us? (Prov23:7)
8. The believer is transformed by grace, but does this happen automatically? (Eph 4:22-24; Rom 12:2)
9. What are some things you can do in order to train your mind to help you withstand the assaults of the enemy? (2 Cor 10:3-6) (Mat 4)