

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Today is the Day, Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

WELCOME

What thought or feeling dominated your days the past week? Did you mostly have a negative, or positive outlook and emotion? Why do you think it was so?

WORD

PHILIPPIANS 4:8-9

⁸Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. ⁹The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

GOD wants us to be joyful, and joyful **ALL THE TIME**. This is a choice, and it starts with right thinking about who GOD is. In the past Sundays, we have learned the importance of not worrying but to stand firm! When we do, it is the evidence that we are resting in the LORD, being anxious for nothing. God commands us not to worry because this is a common struggle for most of us.

That's why **Philippians 4:6-7** says that we should be "**anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.**" ⁷**And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**" God commands us to be joyful – and it all begins in the MIND. How can you maintain this kind of emotional balance of joy and peace? You've got to **THINK RIGHT!**

In **Philippians 4:8-9**, Paul hands over some final instruction in connection to his previous commands. The MAIN VERB of **verse 8** is **DWELL (Gk. LOGIZOMAI)** – a command to keep thinking, to keep dwelling. It has the idea of continually pondering and meditating. What did he ask them to think about? Paul gave adjectives or virtues that described Jesus Christ himself!

The Bible tells us in **Proverbs 4:23** to "watch over your heart" – carefully guarding our thoughts, being vigilant and being careful of how we think. Your **thinking** will impact your **emotions**, and your emotions will impact your **actions (The T.E.A. Principle)**. Remember the story of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet? The story goes that this couple made life-changing decisions based on false narratives – and ended up dying and taking their lives for believing something that was not true. The power of our thought life is crucial! We should assume responsibility to think right, and we cannot afford not to, because it will impact our lives greatly. Ralph Waldo Emerson said this:

**"Sow a thought and you reap an action;
sow an act and you reap a habit;
sow a habit and you reap a character;
sow a character and you reap a destiny."**

Have you come to a point in your Christian walk that you believe this about your mind? Notice how Paul defined what we must dwell on in **v8**, and he taught us to filter our thoughts in accordance to the things that are:

TRUE – rather than lies;

HONORABLE (worthy) – rather than shameful things;

RIGHT – or just, as opposed to wrong and unfair things;

PURE – as in holy and righteous, rather than the immoral;

LOVELY – something beautiful and uplifting, instead of something defiled and rotten;

OF GOOD REPUTE – encouraging things that inspire rather than criticize and pull down;

EXCELLENT and **WORTHY OF PRAISE** – rather than disappointing, and obviously eliciting disdain or negative thoughts.

All these qualities and positive thoughts remind us of Jesus Himself! When we think of others, do we think the best of them and extend the benefit of the doubt, or does our prejudice and vain imagination get in the way and make us negative and unpleasant when we relate with them? Thinking right is a discipline we need to practice. In **v9**, we see another important verb – to **PRACTICE** the things that Paul taught. It is in the present tense, meaning, he was asking them to **keep on practicing this**. What we continue to think about will continue to impact our actions! Thinking rightly is crucial as this affects both our spiritual and physical health. Immediate consequences and long-term consequences are at stake. Are you consuming things that can pollute your mind? What are the things that we need to think right about?

1. THINK RIGHT ABOUT GOD

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 reminds us to take every thought captive. We are to assume responsibility to thinking right and dwelling on the right things. Remember, that we are engaged in spiritual warfare; this has to do with destruction of mental fortresses or internal strongholds – ideas in our mind that are stuck there and cause us to be enslaved to wrong thinking. If we have the right

WORD (cont'd)

knowledge about GOD — who He is, the truths presented in His Word, and His promises – this will help us battle the lies of the enemy (**John 8:44**). The devil inserts ideas in our mind like that are against God's will and then accuses us of having those kinds of thoughts. Peter, when he tried to stop Jesus from His impending death, was rebuked by Jesus, saying that Peter was more concerned about man's interests rather than God's will (**Matthew 16:23**)! How do we battle his lies? **By focusing on the TRUTH!** Soren Kierkegaard said, **“There two ways to be fooled: one is to believe what is not true; the other is to refuse to believe what is true.”** Keep on thinking right about God, and you will be able to guard your thought life! A.W. Tozer said, **“What enters your mind when you think about GOD is the most important thing about you.”** Some more truths about God to focus on:

- God is sovereign and all-powerful (Isaiah 46:9-10)
- God is perfect (Deuteronomy 32:4)
- God is our light and shield (Psalm 84:11-12)

2. THINK RIGHT ABOUT SELF

When it comes to the self, instead of sulking in your own despair and insecurities, choose to remember that God loves you (**1 John 4:16-17**), and we are commanded to **renew our minds in Christ (Romans 12:2)**. In the Old Testament, God commanded from Joshua (**Joshua 1:8**) to meditate on God's Word day and

night to successfully navigate this life. Every lie from the enemy can be countered by God's truth – we are loved, we are redeemed, we are forgiven, and we are made new! (**2 Cor. 5:17, Col. 1:13-14, John 1:12, John 3:16**)

3. THINK RIGHT ABOUT OTHERS

We must be patient with others as we are all works in progress (**Philippians 1:6**). We are to grant them the benefit of the doubt and practice **1 Corinthians 13:7**. Above all, we must see other people through the eyes of God – consider them as important and remember that God yearns their salvation and repentance (**1 Timothy 2:4**).

4. THINK RIGHT ABOUT CIRCUMSTANCES

If God is almighty, loves you, and is sovereign, what do we do with circumstances in our lives that somehow push us to our limits and cause us pain? **Romans 8:28-29** is a good reminder that God will achieve His purpose, our sanctification which will ultimately glorify Him. God's ultimate objective is for us to be like His Son Jesus, and He is preparing us for eternity with Him. We can trust in the LORD (**Ps. 31:14-15**) because the times of our lives are in God's Sovereign and loving hands! Our days were ordained by Him (**Ps. 139:16**), and nothing can separate us from the love of GOD (**Romans 8:35-37**) and we are more than conquerors through Him who loves us!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- 1. Self-Check.** What enters your mind when you think about GOD? What is GOD like to you?
- 2. Setting It Right.** Maybe you have been thinking about negative, wrong things and you are letting worries and fears cripple you. What did you learn today that will enable you to get out of this negativity?
- 3. Living It Out.** How will you practice “thinking right of others”? Think about someone you may be prejudiced against. What can you do this week to reach out and encourage them instead with God's words?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Have a list of ten people that you will pray for everyday this week. Pray for their salvation, that they may be drawn closer to Jesus in this time of the COVID 19 pandemic. Connect with them to ask what you can pray for them. Share how Christ can be their source of continuous joy and peace.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends