

THINKING AS A CHRISTIAN

1. Text: Philippians 4:6-9
2. In verse eight there is a list of traits which should characterize the Christian's thinking. There is nothing wrong with lists.
3. What we think about is what we will do and what we are. Proverbs 23:7 "As he thinks in his heart, so is he." Colossians 3:25 "Set your mind on the things above, not on things of the earth."
4. "Think on or meditate on these things." This is more than mere sterile contemplation. The form of the word is a command to do it on a continuous basis. It means to reflect on these and allow them to shape your conduct. To ponder, let the mind dwell on. Romans 8:18 has Paul saying, "I consider the sufferings of the present not worthy to be compared to the later glory."
5. We cannot keep thoughts from suddenly forming in our minds. But we can refuse to dwell on them, keep them. Compare to visitor at the door.
6. The list in 4:8 has 8 traits. This lesson will consider 4 of them; the next lesson will examine the last four. Some of the words may overlap somewhat in their meaning, but this is probably deliberately done.

I. **Think About What Is True.**

1. Meaning: real, genuine, accurate, honest, consistent with facts and reality, unfeigned (pretense)
2. Opposite: false, unreal, lying, fictitious, imaginary, fantasy, error, baseless, deceptive, promise without performance.
3. Applications: true in doctrine and life. What is said, believed, taught, discussed, viewed, etc.
4. I John 1:6 We lie and do not practice the truth.
5. II John 4 "Your children were walking in the truth."

II. **Think About What Is Honorable.**

1. New King James: noble.
2. Meanings: worthy of reverence, revered, that which commands respect, dignified, worthy, elevated.
3. Opposite: vulgar, debased, flippant (marked by disrespectful levity or casualness), cheap, disgraceful, petty.
4. Difficult one word to translate: "has the dignity of holiness upon it."
5. Apply:

III. **Think About What Is Just.**

1. Just equals right.
2. Meaning: It gives to God and man what is due. "Duty faced and duty done." Doing the right thing.
3. Psalm 11:7 The Lord is righteous, He loves righteousness.
4. John 7:24 Judge righteous judgment.
5. Opposite: unfair, unjust, dishonest, unethical, biased, partial
6. Apply:

IV. **Think About What Is Pure.**

1. Meaning: clear, clean, chaste thoughts, morally pure and undefiled. Used of sacrifices in worship ceremonially clean brought into the presence of God. Pure thoughts that become pure words and deeds.
2. Opposite: sordid, shabby, soiled, smutty
3. Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
4. James 4:8 Purify your hearts, you double-minded. I Peter 1:22 You purified your souls in obeying the truth.
5. Apply:

Conclusion:

**A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings
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