

# PHILIPPIANS Lesson 48

## Chapter 4, verse 8: Think on These Things

27 March 2023

God wants us to have the mind of Christ. He also wants us to know true joy and be able to rejoice in the Lord. To enable us to do that, He tells us what to think about in a very specific list in Philippians 4:8. God wants us to set our minds upon the same things He sets His mind upon. Too often we allow ourselves to think upon (through TV, music, acquaintances, etc.) things that we know God would never think upon.

### “...whatsoever things are true...”

- God’s word is truth (Jn 17:17).
- Bible preaching can be true.
- Scripture memorization helps keep your mind on the truth.

### “...whatsoever things are honest...”

- You may not tell an outright lie, but your omission of the whole truth is not honest.
- Partial truths or misleading reports are not honest. God wants truth and honesty.
- When you tell others “The Bible is God’s truth,” but you don’t believe it, you’re not being honest.

### “...whatsoever things are just...”

- Justify: to declare righteous.
- Think on those things which God says are right.
  - God tells you in his word what is right and what is wrong.
- Think upon what God approves of, not what He condemns.

### “...whatsoever things are —pure..”

- Pure: undiluted. Not polluted.
- Don’t cling to your old sins. There are no “little sins.” All sin is impure and will make you dirty.
- Stop saying, “What’s wrong with it?” and “Why can’t I?” Agree with God about your sin.
- Don’t try to attract lost people to your church by making your church attractive to ungodly people.

### “...whatsoever things are lovely...”

- TV allows you to view and think upon violence, pain, hatred, killing, conflict, gossip, and many other ugly, harmful, disturbing things. God doesn’t want us to think on those things.
- God is love (1 Jn. 4:8). Think on Him.
- The fruit of the Spirit is love (Gal. 5:22). Think on Him.
- Jesus taught us to love our neighbors, our spouse, our parents, our brothers and sisters in Christ. Think on Him and the things that promote Christian love.

### “...whatsoever things are of good report...”

- If you can confidently report your recent activities to your parents or Christian brethren, then it’s a good report.
- If you are ashamed to say what you’ve been up to, then you shouldn’t even think about doing it.

“...if *there be any virtue...*” Excellence; value; merit; worth.

“...and if *there be any praise...*” Think on things that will result in your Savior being praised.

God wants you to think. Amusement is designed to prevent you from thinking.