

THINK ON THESE THINGS

Int.

1. Aim: To give a brief summary of all the things we should think about.
2. Phil. 4:8 **"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."**
3. The battle of life is the battle to control our thoughts
 - a. If Satan has control of our thoughts he will fill our minds with evil.
 - b. If God has control of our thoughts he will fill our minds with good.
4. What difference does it make about our thoughts?
 - a. Prov. 23:7a **"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:"**
 - b. "Thought finds its way into action." - Bovee - Thoughts become what we do !!
 - c. Prov. 4:23 **"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."**
5. **"A person may not be what he thinks he is, but what he thinks he is."**
 - a. We are going to have something on our mind.
 - b. Impossible not to think about something.
 - c. Have you ever said: "Penny for your thoughts" ? What are you thinking?
6. Think = meditate = reflect - - - NKJV = "Meditate"
 - a. "Meditation is that exercise of the mind by which it recalls a known truth, as some kind of creatures do their food, to be ruminated upon till all the valuable parts be extracted." - by George Horne NDT p. 400

b. Ruminant

- i. Grazing animal that chews its cud; such as cattle, sheep, deer, camels
- ii. Have 4 stomachs - swallow food mixed with saliva, goes into 1st stomach - later can recall that food and chew it more - called chewing the cud - then it swallows the food again and it goes to the final stomach for digestion and absorption into the body.

c. Ruminant

- (1) To muse upon; contemplate
- (2) To chew repeatedly for an extended period
- (3) To chew again what has been chewed slightly
- (4) To engage in contemplation
- (5) Reflect - ponder

7. We want to "Chew the Cud" for a few minutes to show you how to think on these things:

Discussion

I. TRUE

A. True

- 1. An actual occurrence - in accordance with the actual state of affairs
- 2. We must think on things that are true or we will think about those things that are untrue - a lie.

B. True in Conduct

- 1. Tell the truth - not lies - Liars will not be in heaven - Rev. 21:8
- 2. You must think a lie before you can tell one
- 3. Think about true ideas and events

C. True in Doctrine

1. John 8:32
2. John 17:17
3. Truth about: God, Christ, Holy Spirit, Church, Salvation, Worship, Judgement
4. Opposite of true doctrine is false doctrine - error
 - a. Don't think about error
 - b. But think about truth - Bible
 - c. Error - Doctrines of men
 - d. Result - Mt. 15:9 "But in vain they do worship me, teaching [for] doctrines the commandments of men."

II. HONEST = Honorable

A. Definition

1. ASV = honorable - To be admired or respected
2. Honorable in the sight of God and men
3. Respected, reputable

B. Illustration

1. Find \$1,000 would you return it? Find \$500, \$100, \$10, \$1
2. Honesty requires we return it

C. Examples

1. Employee Theft - Pay Bills Job - "Blameless"
2. Ananias & Sapphira - lied about money - thought about it first
3. Spend your life being honest !

D. What we are afraid to do before men, we should be afraid to think before God.

III. JUST

- A. Definition
 - 1. Justice = right, relations between men
 - 2. Fair, impartial, unbiased
- B. There are no degrees of being just.
 - 1. A person less than just is unjust
 - 2. People of the world notice a just action on the part of a Christian, and they notice that which is unjust !!
- C. Illustration
 - 1. Man got 2 cokes for price of one - out of drink machine- What should he do?
 - 2. Took one back and owner said: "No one has ever done this before!"
- D. Think about justice
 - 1. We must first think about "justice" in order to do it.
 - 2. Think about those things that are just, fair, right.
- E. Just = What is right, that which regard for duty demands - fair.

IV. PURE

- A. Definition
 - 1. Chaste, pure from every fault
 - 2. That which is lifted out of defilement as far as possible
- B. Illustration
 - 1. Computer program -- the data is what makes it act in the right way -- virus ruins or destroys a program
 - 2. Our "data" or "thoughts" make us act the way we do

C. Think on pure things

1. Pro. 23:7 "**For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee: but his heart is not with thee.**" - You are what you think
2. Meditate on those things that are pure and holy and upright

V. LOVELY

A. Definition

1. Acceptable, pleasing, lovely
2. One who is kind, not gloomy or a fault-finder

B. Areas of love:

1. God - strongest bond of love - Jude 21 "**Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.**"
2. Family - Love one another
3. Neighbor - Rom. 13:9-10 - love worketh no ill to his neighbor

C. We should have lovely thoughts so we may be lovely in our life.

VI. GOOD REPORT

A. Definition

1. Well spoken of among men - Courtesy, kindness, respect
2. That which is uplifting

B. Illustration

1. Jar filled with water. When jostled what happened? Turned red because of something in the lid.
2. What comes out in our life when we are jostled? it shows what is in the heart.
3. Think on things of a good report

VII. IF THERE BE ANY VIRTUE

- A. Definition
 - 1. Excellent
 - 2. Old word about ground - is it worth planting? Is it excellent?
 - 3. Apply this to our thoughts.
- B. If there is anything excellent in addition to these things, then think on them.
- C. Think about excellent or outstanding things.

VIII. IF THERE BE ANY PRAISE

- A. NKJV - "praiseworthy"
 - 1. Praise = commend, glorify
 - 2. Tell good things about somebody
- B. Praise God
 - 1. In Songs and prayers
 - 2. Telling others about God - Teaching
- C. Tell good things about others:
 - 1. Makes you feel good - Makes others feel good
 - 2. Look for things worthy of praise in other people
 - 3. Then think on these things

Conclusion

- 1. When our thoughts are about such things there is no doubt about the end Result - Ps. 1:1-2
"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."

2. Our life is what our thoughts make it to be.
3. Ps. 119:97 "**O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.**"
4. Phil. 2:5 "**Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:**"
5. Mind control by Christ and His Word is what we desire.
6. Phil. 4:8

a. In the positive:

Finally brethren,

WHATSOEVER things are True,

WHATSOEVER things are Honest,

WHATSOEVER things are Just,

WHATSOEVER things are Pure,

WHATSOEVER things are Lovely,

WHATSOEVER things are Good Report,

If there be any virtue and

If there be any praise,

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b. In the Negative:

Whatsoever things are False,

Whatsoever things are Dishonest,

Whatsoever things are Unjust,

Whatsoever things are Impure,

Whatsoever things are Ugly,

Whatsoever things are of Bad Report,

If there be any vice, and

If there be anything blameworthy,

Think not on these things."

7. Ps. 139:23 "**Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:**"
8. Prov. 12:5 "**The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit.**"