

Something To Think About

(by Ray Reynolds)

“Brothers and sisters, think about the things that are good and worthy of praise. Think about things that are true and honorable and right and pure and beautiful and respected. Do what you learned and received from me, what I told you, and what you saw in me do. And the God who gives peace will be with you.”

Philippians 4:8-9 – New Century Version

Paul gives us a list of things to “think” about (v.8).

Question - How quick can a word or an action get you to thinking?

Spiritual maturity begins when we start thinking like Christ (2:5).

Think about things that are “good” (v.8).

Question - How does it feel when you see a bad movie/read a bad book?

Spiritual maturity depends on our ability to distinguish good vs. evil (3:15-16).

Think about things that are “worthy of praise” (v.8).

Question - Do you thank God when you make the right decision?

Question - How does selfishness and pride hinder our praise?

Spiritual maturity is the result of a God blessed life (1:9-11).

Think about things that are “true” (v.8).

Question - How can people mishandle or water down the truth?

Spiritual maturity depends upon us standing for the truth (1:7).

Think about things that are “honorable” (v.8).

Question - How can we recognize things that are honorable?

Question - Does God honor us (1:27-29)?

Christians should surround themselves with people who are noble (2:19-30).

Think about things that are “right” (v.8).

Question - Is there always a right way and a wrong way?

Question - How can we think about making the right decisions?

Knowing that right things are done by wrong people and wrong things are done by right people is a sign of spiritual maturity (1:15-18).

Think about things that are “pure” (v.8).

Question - How can we keep our thoughts and motives pure?

Our spiritual maturity is determined by our thoughts and our actions (2:14-15).

Think about things that are “beautiful” (v.8).

Question - Who determines beauty?

Question - How can we become more beautiful to God?

God sees the nature of the believer and allows His Holy Spirit to make us beautiful (2:1-4).

Think about things that are “respected” (v.8).

Question - Who do you respect the most?

Question - How can reflecting on those you respect give you peace?

Respect and reverence will get you far in this world (4:13-20).

Paul promises “Do what you learned and received from me, what I told you, and what you saw in me do. And the God who gives peace will be with you” (v.9).

Question - Do you see Paul as a man who was content (4:10-13)?

Question - How could his mindset have helped him to attain this state of contentment?

Question - How can we imitate Paul?

Question - What will you do?