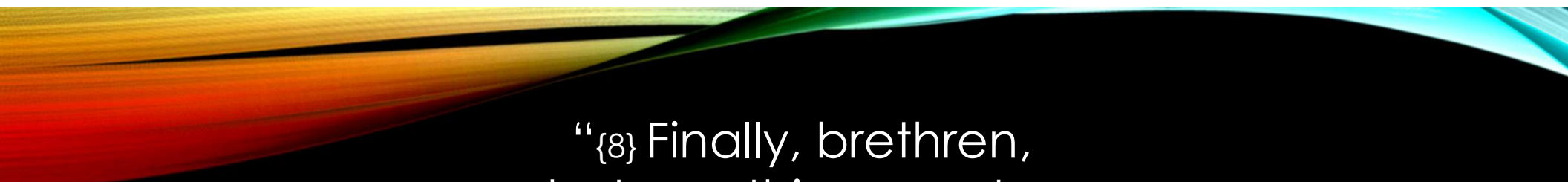




MEDITATE ON THESE THINGS

Philippians 4:8-9



{8} Finally, brethren,
whatever things are true,
whatever things are noble,
whatever things are just,
whatever things are pure,
whatever things are lovely,
whatever things are of good report,
if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—
meditate on these things.


{9} The things which you learned and received and heard
and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be
with you.”

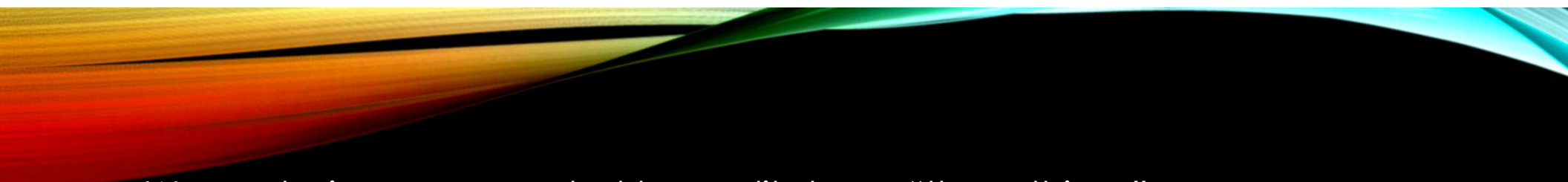
Philippians 4:8-9




- Context: 4:6-9

- A prescription for the God of peace to be with you, which will bring you peace
- Prayer and supplication
- With thanksgiving
- Meditate on certain things
- Do these things, which you have seen in Paul's life

- 
- Not teaching culture's "positive thinking" philosophy
 - "accentuate the positive; eliminate the negative"
 - "just think positive"
 - "you can have all that you want if you just think positive"
 - "wrong to be negative or critical"
 - "if you are sick, then you need to use positive self-talk and positive visualization, claim healing and you can be well again"
 - "create your own reality through positive thinking"
 - "you can achieve whatever you believe"
 - False gospels: "Name it and Claim it", prosperity gospel, health and wealth gospel

- 
- We are being commanded to meditate on “these things”
 - Commands are for our spiritual good and to please our Creator, leading us to heaven
 - “Meditate on”
 - “think about, consider, ponder, let one’s mind dwell on, take account of, weigh”; “calculate, count, ponder, reflect upon”
 - “involves the use of the mind and the reason: reckon, count, compute, calculate, take into account. After this process of reasoning, then some action must be taken (v.9). But first comes the calculation” (L.A.Mott)
 - We are to meditate on these things with a view to do them
 - The meditation is designed to lead to the action of obedience in verse 9
 - Obedience is directly related to the God of peace being with us

- 
- Six descriptions of the things to which we should be pondering, dwelling on in our thoughts
 - Two descriptions that sum up the qualities
 - All of them take us back to the word of God
 - God's revelation to man – God's words spoken to man – The word of God – the Bible – is *the* source and the standard of what is...
 - True, noble, just, pure, lovely, of good report
 - Virtuous and praise-worthy
 - The Bible defines for us what these are



whatever things are
TRUE

- John 18:38
 - Psalm 119:160
 - Absolute
 - Not “how do I feel about it” or “does it work”
- What is true vs. what is false
 - Truth: 1:9, 27
 - False; error: 3:1-2
- Truth is the foundation
 - John 17:17
 - God is true. His promises are true. His warnings are true. Jesus is the truth.
- Beware. Jeremiah 2:13. 1 Timothy 6:3, 4.
- We must direct our minds to dwell on what is true



whatever things are

NOBLE

- “august, venerable, reverend; to be venerated for character, honorable of persons” (Thayer)
- Honorable, worthy of honor; dignified and sacred in character
- God and His ways are sacred and worthy of honor
 - Psalm 111:9-10
- What is deserving of the highest regard and honor vs. the common and temporal
 - God defines the things that are worthy of honor
 - 2 Timothy 2:20-21
 - For example
 - Titus 2:6-8
 - 1 Peter 3:4
- We must direct our minds to dwell on what is noble or honorable



whatever things are
JUST

- Lawful, right
- Same word translated “righteous”
 - God is righteous -1 John 1:9, 2:1
 - God’s judgments are righteous, just, right – Psalm 19:75, 128
 - God’s word defines what is right – Psalm 19:8. Proverbs 14:12.
- What is right vs. what is wrong
 - Standard: John 12:48
 - For example, Ephesians 6:1
 - 1 John 3:7-8
- We must direct our minds to dwell on what is just or right



whatever things are

PURE

- “Pure from fault” (Thayer); “pure from defilement, not contaminated” (Vine); “clean, innocent, modest, perfect, chaste, clean, pure” (Strong)
- Undefined by moral or sexual impurity
- Matthew 5:8
- God’s word defines what is pure
 - Psalm 19:8
 - James 3:17
- What is pure and clean vs. immoral and filthy
 - Ephesians 5:3-5
 - Galatians 5:19-21
- We must direct our minds to dwell on what is pure and clean



whatever things are
LOVELY

- “dear, beloved; of things: pleasing, agreeable, grateful, dear; of persons: kindly affection, grateful, well-disposed” (Liddell & Scott); “acceptable and pleasing” (Thayer)
- Pleasing, agreeable, and attractive
- God’s word defines the things that are lovely
 - Colossians 1:9-10
 - Examples
 - Colossians 3:12
 - Colossians 3:20
 - Colossians 4:6. Ephesians 4.29.
 - Romans 15.2
- We must direct our minds to dwell on what is lovely



whatever things are
OF GOOD REPORT

- “deservedly enjoys a good reputation” (Bruce)
- Admirable, things that are highly-regarded and well-spoken of
- Again, God’s word defines the things that are of good report
 - Examples
 - 2 Corinthians 8:1-5
 - Philippians 2:19-20
- We must direct our minds to dwell on what is of good report



*if there is any VIRTUE
and if there is anything PRAISEWORTHY*

- Virtue: Excellence; moral courage
- Praiseworthy: Worthy to be commended
- Two descriptive words that summarize the other 6
- Directs us to the word of God where we find what is morally excellent and morally courageous, and what is worthy of praise and commendation from God



Oh, the importance of following this command!

- We go in the direction of our thinking
 - Proverbs 23:7
 - Proverbs 4:23
- It is the root of our words and actions
 - Matthew 15:18; Mark 7:21
- Directly related to where your treasure is
 - Matthew 6:21
 - If treasure not in heaven, then what?
- It is a part of the renewing of our minds and thus the transformation of our character
 - Romans 12:2. Colossians 3:10



Oh, the importance of following this command!

- It is a matter of self-control
 - 2 Corinthians 10:5
 - Galatians 5:23; 2 Peter 1:6
 - Beware of what you take in through your...
 - Ears
 - Eyes
 - Matthew 5:27-28
- Verse 9 – The God of peace will be with you
- We are to ponder and dwell on these things in our thoughts so that we might do them!



{8} Finally, brethren,
whatever things are true,
whatever things are noble,
whatever things are just,
whatever things are pure,
whatever things are lovely,
whatever things are of good report,
if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—
meditate on these things.

{9} The things which you learned and received and heard
and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be
with you.”

Philippians 4:8-9