**First Baptist Church Taylorsville**

**June 9, 2019**

 ***[Pressing Onward: Thought and Practice]***

**Philippians 4: 8-9**

***Introduction:***

Godly thinking means having our minds consumed by thoughts that are pleasing to God and honoring to Him.

God honoring thoughts are crucial to our Christian lives and our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ toward Christlikeness.

What we think about affects our lives and our actions.

Right \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ often equals right \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ; wrong \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_often equals wrong \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Verse 8:**

*Whatever is True:*

The phrase “think about these things” means to carefully ponder, give proper consideration, to evaluate, or to think about something with great concentration.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is defined as that which is in accordance with fact or reality.

For every Christian, that which God has defined as true should be accepted and followed as such.

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of God is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of God and we are told our thoughts should be consumed and filled by it.

*Whatever is Honorable:*

The command here is to turn our thinking away from anything that is shameful and dishonoring to God . Instead, fill our thoughts with that which is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and right before the eyes of God.

As the people of God, who are **pressing onward,** we are to set our minds on those things that lift up our thoughts toward God and not away from Him.

*Whatever is Just:*

The command here is to reject those things that are unjust, prejudice, and biased and to fill our minds with those things that are correct, right, and the very essence of justice.

This means we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_with brother and sister Christians and with anyone who is experiencing injustice.

God cares for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The greatest oppression we experience is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

*Whatever is Pure:*

To think about that which is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is to consider that which is holy, like God *and* reflects the standards He has called us to.

Purity in thoughts and action is a mark of the people of God and those who are **pressing onward** toward Christlikeness.

*Whatever is Lovely :*

To dwell on that which is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is to think on those things that stir up our affections toward God and speaks to our souls that God is real and the He loves and cares for us.

For the people of God, seeing people come to know Christ as their savior is the loveliest thing we can think on.

*Whatever is Commendable:*

As those who are **pressing onward,** we should fill our minds with thoughts about those things in which God would \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to us.

What would God tell us about how to live, act, love, and what we do? Think on these things.

**Verse 9:**

There is always a connection between our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

We practice what we have learned and received by understanding the work of the gospel in our lives and seeking to live it out in our daily lives through both our thoughts and actions.

We practice what we have heard and received by putting ourselves under the teaching of God’s Word and then seeking to live out our obedience in both thought and actions.

***Conclusion:***

The result of a mind that thinks on and considers these things and the end goal of one who practices and lives out those God honoring thoughts is God himself will be present with us.

God’s presence is not found where God is not honored. Therefore, we as the people **press onward** toward Christ by fighting the battle of the mind, thinking thoughts that are worthy of God, and living lives that are God honoring.

***Blanks: pressing onward; thinking & living & thinking & living; Truth; Word & truth; honorable; mourn; oppressed; spiritual; pure; lovely; commend; thoughts & actions.***