

# SERMON NOTES

By Pastor John Paul Miller

## *The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Philippians*

### Philippians 4:8-9 – “How to Have the God of Peace”

*Philippians 4:8-9, “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. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.”*

We move from how to have the Peace of God (vs. 4-7) to how to have the God of Peace (vs. 8-9)

How do we have the Peace of God?

Paul's prescription:

- Rejoicing in the Lord (vs. 4)

*Philippians 4:4, “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.”*

- Being gentle to all men (vs. 5)

*Philippians 4:5, “Let your moderation be known unto all men...”*

- Remembering the Lord is near (vs. 5)

*Philippians 4:5, “...The Lord is at hand.”*

- By not worrying about anything (vs. 6)

*Philippians 4:6, “Be careful for nothing...”*

- But praying about everything (vs. 6)

*Philippians 4:6, “...but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”*

- The provision of peace (vs. 7)

Philippians 4:7, " *And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*"

Paul is not through yet, notice verse eight: " *Finally...*"

There are two more commands for us to keep, and if we do the Peace of God will guard us, and the God of Peace will guide us.

What are they?

- Think right [Biblically] (vs. 8) "*think on these things*"
- Live right [Biblically] (vs. 9) "*Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do.*"

Both come by a right relationship to the Word of God.

Romans 12:2, " *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*"

James 1:22, " *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*"

## I. Right Thinking (vs. 8)

Philippians 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.*"

We just learned from verse seven that worry involves the mind (wrong thinking)

It's so important that we think properly because the battle ground for the believer is our mind.

J. Wilbur Chapman - Sow a thought and you reap an act. Sow an act and you reap a habit. Sow a habit and you reap a character. Sow a character and you reap a destiny.

It all starts in your mind

### **Before you were saved - Satan blinded the carnal mind**

2 Corinthians 4:4, " *In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*"

Romans 8:5, " *For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.*"

Ephesians 4:17, " *This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:*"

Romans 1:28, " *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;*"

## **Now that you're saved**

Romans 12:2, " *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*"

Matthew 22:37, " *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*"

2 Timothy 1:7, " *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*"

1 Peter 1:13, " *Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*"

Proverbs 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.*"

The great need today is for Christians to think like Christians!

Paul gives us six objects for right thought all introduced by the qualitative adjective "*whatsoever things*" – the plural indicates that many thoughts could be grouped under each category.

But Paul's focus is not on thinking, it's on what we are to think about. It's the object of our thoughts that matter.

Anxious thoughts must be replaced by positive thoughts.

A. Paul gives us the description of right thoughts

What are we to think about?

1. *whatsoever things are true, or truthful*

\* Truth is that which corresponds to reality

\* God is truthful and righteous (His nature)

Charles Erdman – The moral standards of Christianity are true because they all correspond to the divine ideal revealed in Christ. They trace back to the very nature of God.

Homosexuality

Gay Marriage

Ring true like the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia

J. D. Pentecost

- \* Truth is the opposite of falsehood and lies
- \* Satan is the father of lies
- \* Satan attacks our minds with his lies

Illustration: Eve “did God really say that?”

- \* Our defense is the Word of God

Ephesians 6 – tells us to put on the belt of truth as we war against Satan; we’re to take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

\* 2 Corinthians 10:5, “*Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*”

- \* Test all things by the standards of God’s truth

- Homosexuality
- Abortion
- Pre-marital and extra marital sex

Satan’s lies

- \* God doesn’t love you
- \* God hasn’t forgiven you
- \* God has forsaken you
- \* God doesn’t answer prayer or provide

“...When thy soul is in distress,  
Think upon His faithfulness...”

- Amy Caramichael

Philippians 1:6, “*Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*”

Jeremiah 29:11, “*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*”

2. *whatsoever things are honest,*

it signifies worthy of reverence and respect.

What is honorable or noble – that which has the dignity of holiness upon it.

Illustration: T.V.

It means a Christian is not to think about what is flippant, cheap and trivial, but rather what is serious, dignified, noble, and worthy of adoration and praise - All found in God's Word!

3. *whatsoever things are just, or right or righteous*

That which is in perfect harmony with God's eternal unchanging standards; found in scripture.

Is it any wonder that the Psalmist said: “*Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.*” (Psalms 119:165)

Psalms 19:8, “*The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.*”

4. *whatsoever things are pure,*

It's morally pure, unstained by evil of any kind.

That which doesn't contaminate oneself or others.

Illustration: T.V., movies, magazines, video's DVD's etc.

Titus 1:15, “*Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.*”

5. *whatsoever things are lovely,*

Whatever is ethically beautiful and attractive- it brings peace and rest.

William Barclay – Winsome is the best translation. It might be paraphrased as that which calls forth love.

This would be in contrast to that which is vengeful, wants to punish, or brings forth bitterness and resentment.

6. *whatsoever things are of good report;*

Thoughts that contain no immoral or sexually suggestive innuendos.

Martin Luther - You can't stop the birds from flying over your head, but you can stop them from nesting in your hair."

## B. The execution of right thinking

*"if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise," (vs. 8)*

Warren W. Wiersbe – If it has virtue, it will motivate us to do better – If it has praise, it is worth commending to others.

At the end of verse eight we are told to "...*think on these things*".

It's the idea of a constant thought process.

*Psalms 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. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."*

Are you thinking about what you're thinking about?

*Psalms 119:165, "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them."*

## II. Right living (vs. 9)

*Philippians 4:9, "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."*

A. The command – do – it emphasizes a constant practice; the development of a habitual lifestyle.

Thinking right should lead to living right.

What does Paul want them to do?

1. What they learned – Paul's oral teaching of the scriptures

Right teaching brings responsibility

2. What they received – the truth transmitted to them by way of his epistle.
3. What they heard – from others how Paul was responding to him imprisonment.
4. What they had seen – Paul's life in action

Paul practiced what he preached!

*James 1:22-24, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: [mirror] For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was."*

Paul's teaching in Philippians:

*Philippians 1:9. "And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;"*

*Philippians 2:3-4, "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."*

*Philippians 3:14-15, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you."*

B. Paul gave a promise (vs. 9) "...and the God of peace shall be with you."

You cannot experience the peace of God if you are living in disobedience to the God of peace.

How?

1. Pray right
2. Think right

### 3. Live right

Philippians 4, is the peace chapter of the New Testament

James 4, is the war chapter of the New Testament – it begins with a question :  
*“From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?” (vs. 1)*

Then James explains:

1. Wrong praying: *“Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.” (vs. 3)*
2. Wrong thinking: *“...purify your hearts, ye double minded.” (vs. 8)*
3. Wrong living: : *“...know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God?...” (vs. 4)*

No peace for the wicked.