



Sunday, March 22, 2020

**MAKE A QUIET COMMITMENT:**

- QUIET your mind and soul before the LORD — *“Be still, and know that I am God”* (Psalm 46:10)
- COMMIT to obedience: *Commit* to doing whatever God will say to you in this message — *“to obey is better than sacrifice”* (1 Samuel 15:22)

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**I. PEACE within Our Selves (Php 4:4-9)**

In these verses, Paul guides us on the path of peace. He gives us a precept followed by a prayer and the right perspective. His premise is that with steps of obedience with can consistently enjoy God’s transcendent kind of peace.

**A. The PRECEPT that evidences PEACE (4-5)**

In this precept we are commanded to evidence peace as we display both a mindset of joy and gentleness—there is an upward and outward focus. Our joy reflects our view of God while our gentleness is an outpouring of that joy as we interact with others.

**B. The PRAYER that brings PEACE (6-7)**

The prayer that brings peace is filled with the right attitudes of humble worship, supplication, and thanksgiving. The resulting promise is a kind of transcendent peace that figuratively “blows your mind”—it is beyond our capability to understand.

**C. The PERSPECTIVE that maintains PEACE (8-9)**

Our perspective is our outlook—it is the way we think.

**Matthew 6:25-34**

**Luke 6:45** A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

## 1. The Precept for Peace (v. 8-9a)

Q: How important are your thoughts?

Q: What effect do they have upon your daily life?

### a. Deliberately choose to think right (v. 8)

Philippians 4:8 ...if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.

Q: What do your thoughts say about you?

Proverbs 23:7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: ...

➤ Christ-honoring thinking will lead to Christ-honoring living—spiritual stability.

We must rebuild our thinking process—think properly going forward! We must learn how to think on right things.



The Christian's thinking should be in the **shape of a cross**. It should look and sound like Christ.

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in **Christ Jesus**:

#### i. Are you thinking truthfully?

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true,...

**Right thinking always starts with truth!** Where do we find truth? Truth is found in the Word of God. (cf. “*Thy Word is truth*” (John 17:17);

Q: Are you thinking upon things above which are found in the Word of God?

#### ii. Are you thinking honorably?

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, ...whatsoever things *are* honest,...

This word “*honest*” carries the idea of something that is noble or worthy of worship—it is worthy of respect.

Q: Are you thinking upon things that are noble and worthy of worship?

#### iii. Are you thinking rightly?

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, ...whatsoever things *are* just,...

Q: Are you thinking upon things that are approved by God?

#### iv. Are you thinking purely?

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, ...whatsoever things *are* pure, ...

These are undefiled thoughts. These are thoughts that do not hinder our worship of God.

Q: Are you thinking upon things that encourage your worship of God or of self?

#### v. Are you thinking lovingly?

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, ... whatsoever things *are* lovely,...

Whatever is attractive and “*lovely*”—these are wholesome thoughts that kind and gracious.

Q: Are you thinking upon things that are kind and gracious?

#### vi. Are you thinking goodly?

**Philippians 4:8** Finally, brethren, ...whatsoever things *are* of good report;...

Things that are of a “*good report*” are those things that are worth talking about. These are encouraging topics. They build up instead of tear down. These comments make a good impression.

Q: Are you thinking in ways that encourage others or tear them down?

**2 Corinthians 10:5** Casting down [*to destroy*] imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of **God**, and bringing into captivity [*bring under subjection*] every thought to the obedience of **Christ**;

b. **Deliberately choose to do right** (v. 9a)

**Philippians 4:9** Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do:...

Paul again calls for deliberate action—do what is right!

i. **Regarding Paul’s Teaching**

Remember and do what I have taught you.

- a) DO what you have learned
- b) Do what you have received

ii. **Regarding Paul’s Testimony**

**1 Corinthians 11:1** Be ye followers of me, even as I also *am* of **Christ**.

- a) DO what you have heard—distance
- b) DO what you have seen—personally

2. The **Promise** of God’s **Presence** (v. 9b)

**Philippians 4:9** ...and the **God** of peace shall be with you.

We see in **Php 4:7** the “peace of God,” now here in **Php 4:9** we see the “God of peace.”

When we put into practice the *principles* of God, we can be confident that the *presence* of God will be manifested in our lives.

**Hebrews 4:16** Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

**Psalms 56:4** In **God** I will praise **His** Word, in **God** I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.



Concerning the PRINCIPLES of God’s Word, faithfulness to the PRECEPTS OF GOD lead to the fulfillment of the PROMISES OF GOD. We must choose to DO RIGHT by deliberately choose to THINK RIGHT, submitting to CHRIST’S CROSS-SHAPED WAY OF THINKING.

**What is my next step?** Please consider doing the questions on the back of this page.



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## What Is My Next Step?

**Hearing** — Giving *attention* to God's Word with the intent to obey it — James 1:21-25

**Doing** — Making *application* of God's Word to be more like Christ — Eph. 4:22-24

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Text: \_\_\_\_\_ Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What did God show **me** that **I** must confess and forsake because it does not reflect Christ and hurts **my** relationship with Him and others? (***Put OFF SIN***)
  
2. What did God show **me** about Himself in this text? (***Renew your mind***)
  - a. What is He like?
  - b. What does He like?
  - c. What does He dislike?
  
3. What does God say to me in this text? (***Renew your mind***)
  - a. What command to obey?
  - b. What promise to claim?
  - c. What principle to apply (*If I do \_\_\_\_\_, then God will do \_\_\_\_\_*)?
  - d. What example to follow?
  
4. What verse(s) should **I** memorize and meditate upon through-out this week to help make **my** change lasting? (***Renew your mind***)
  
5. In light of what **I** have heard from God, ... (***Put ON CHRIST***)
  - a. What character quality of Jesus must I demonstrate *with God's help* this week?
  - b. In what situations will I most likely be tempted not to respond in a Christ-like way?
  - c. How can **I** get ready for those situations? (*If I don't have a plan for change, it probably won't happen.*)



OUR MISSION: Supremely love GOD,  
Sacrificially love others  
—ALL to the GLORY of GOD!