

“THINK ON THESE THINGS” (PHILIPPIANS 4:8)

- I. Think (at end of verse)
 - A. NKJV = “meditate”
 - B. ASV (alternate rendering) = “take account of”
 - C. Vine = “it signifies ‘make those things the subjects of your thoughtful consideration’ or ‘carefully reflect on them’”
 - D. Thayer = “to consider, take account, weigh, meditate on”
 - E. “Accounting” in Hebrews 11:19
 - F. Because the heart is at the root of action (Mark 7:20-23), what we think on is what we do and become
 - G. Lipscomb = “We grow like our thoughts; we cannot entertain impure thoughts without becoming corrupt, and we cannot think good thoughts without becoming pure. Meditation precedes, and works follow.”
 - H. Adam Clarke = “The Gospel of Christ requires all its professors to have the mind that was in Christ, and to walk as He Himself also walked. They were not to attend to one branch of righteousness or virtue only, but to everything by which they might bring honor to God, good to their fellow creatures, and credit to themselves... Esteem (these things) highly, recommend them heartily, and practice them fervently.”

- II. True
 - A. Lipscomb = “A man who is false to his engagements, or false in his statements and promises, is one who will always disgrace the cause of Christ.”
 - B. Clarke = “all that is agreeable to unchangeable and eternal truth”
 - C. John 19:35
 - D. John 17:17 – a variation of the word (“truth”)

- III. Honest
 - A. ASV = honorable
 - B. NKJV = noble
 - C. Vine = “the word points to seriousness of purpose and to self-respect in conduct”
 - D. Translated “grave”
 - 1. I Timothy 3:8 – regarding deacons
 - 2. I Timothy 3:11 – regarding deacons’ wives
 - 3. Titus 2:2 – regarding aged men

- IV. Just
 - A. Vine = “was first used of persons observant of custom, rule, right, especially in the fulfillment of duties towards gods and men, and of things that were in accordance with right...in the New Testament it denotes righteous, a state of being right, or right conduct”
 - B. Thayer = “righteous, observing divine and human laws; one who is such as he ought to be...that which regard for duty demands, what is right”

- V. Pure
 - A. Vine = “pure from defilement, not contaminated (from the same root as “holy”)
 - B. Thayer = “pure from every fault, immaculate”
 - C. Clarke = “in reference to the state of the mind, and to the acts of the body”
 - D. “Clear” in II Corinthians 7:11
 - E. “Chaste” in I Peter 3:2

- VI. Lovely
 - A. Only occurrence in Bible
 - B. Vine = “pleasing, agreeable, lovely”

- VII. Good Report
 - A. Only occurrence in Bible
 - B. Thayer = “things spoken in a kindly spirit, with good will to others”

- VIII. Virtue
 - A. Thayer = “any particular moral excellence, as modesty, purity”
 - B. Lipscomb = “Christians are to have the excellence that comes from the true, from the honorable, from the just, from the pure, from the lovely; but lest that should not cover the whole ground of excellence, he adds, ‘If there be any virtue.’”
 - C. Christians have been called to virtue (II Peter 1:3)
 - D. One of the Christian graces in II Peter 1:5
 - E. “Praises” in I Peter 2:9

- IX. Praise (NKJV = praiseworthy)