

What we THINK Matters ~ Philippians 4:8-9 (...and it Matters More than we Think)

→ Scripture Reading Phil. 4:6-9, Ps. 139:23-24

INTRODUCTION

- Garbage In - Garbage out
- Little Eyes and Ears
- Things we Take in become part of our memories
- Our Thoughts SHAPE...

Shaping Christlike THINKING ~ Philippians 4:8

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things.

APPLICATION

Philippians 4:7 (NIV) ...the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will GUARD your hearts and your MINDS in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:5 (NIV) Those who live according to the sinful nature have their MINDS SET on what that nature DESIRES...

Romans 8:5 (NIV) Those who live according to the sinful nature have their MINDS SET on what that nature DESIRES; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their MINDS SET on what the Spirit desires.

⁸...Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. (NLT)

→ It will require that be TRANSFORMED

Romans 12:2 (NIV) Do not CONFORM any longer to the pattern of this world...

² Don't let the world around you SQUEEZE you into its own MOLD... (JBP)

Romans 12:2 (NIV) Do not CONFORM any longer to the pattern of this world, but be **Transformed** by the **RENEWING of your mind**...

RENEWING our Minds... Ingram

➤ is a Call to LIVE Everyday AS a Living Sacrifice

Rom.12:1 (NIV) ...I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship.

➤ will always involve a BATTLE

2 Cor. 10:5 (NIV) ...we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

➤ is a SUPERNATURAL WORK of the Holy Spirit

Philip. 2:12-13 (NLT) ...Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

➤ is always about my RELATIONSHIP with Jesus

1 John 1:7 (NIV) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Through God's Word our Minds are...

INFORMED - we learn About God and ourselves

-then-

TRANSFORMED - we become more like Jesus as we OBEY and Surrender daily to Him

God will completely change our THINKING and our BEHAVIOR if we will cooperate by wholeheartedly moment by moment by SUBMITTING to and OBEYING His WORD. C Ingram

Shaping Christlike ACTIONS ~ Philippians 4:9

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

In the early days of the church before the NT was written or widely circulated, the standards of Christian BELIEF and BEHAVIOR were largely taught by being LIVED OUT in the words and example of the apostles and church leaders. Expositors

APPLICATION

Hebrews 13:7 (NIV) Remember your leaders, who spoke the WORD of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and IMITATE their faith.

TAKE AWAY ??

Right living results from RIGHT THINKING. If a person's **thought-life** is pure, then his life will be pure. On the other hand, if a person's **mind is a fountain of corruption**, then you can be sure that the stream that issues from it will be filthy also. MacDonald

Psalms 139:23-24 (NIV) Search me, O God, and KNOW my heart; test me and know my ANXIOUS thoughts. ²⁴ See if there is any OFFENSIVE way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.