

Steps to finding real Peace!

Philippians 4:1-9

Part 4

I. The thought life of a Christian

- As noted before Paul is speaking to Christians (Verse 1)
 - Finally my brethren- Remember that step one is that in order to have Peace with God we first must become a Christian
 - Paul is now saying finally.
 - I believe that each step has literally been building up to the climax of these final two verses
 - We must remember that Paul is writing these verses under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. II Timothy 3:16-17
 - Remember this is God's perfect plan for finding peace in our lives not Paul's opinion
 - The final two verses address the thought life of a Christian
 - It is impossible to have this type of thought life without being a Christian

II. What should the Christian think about? (Verse 8)

- What is Paul trying to tell us when he uses the word think?
 - This is the Greek word Logizomai which is where we get our modern word logic
 - It means to consider, reflect, reason, or to ponder.
 - William Barclay says, "...it is a law of life that, if a man thinks of something often enough and long enough, he will come to the stage when he cannot stop thinking about it. His thoughts will be quite literally in a groove out of which he cannot jerk them" (*The Letters to the Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians*, p.97).
 - When a person becomes a Christian there is literally a renewing of the mind. Romans 12:2
- Peace comes through the positive thinking on the items listed in verse 8
 - Whatsoever things are **TRUE**.
 - True means the State of being the real case-Fact
 - Jesus said that "He is the way, the truth and the life" John 14:6
- Whatsoever things are **HONEST**
 - This word in the Greek means things that are honorable, worthy, revered, highly respected and noble.
 - Barclay says: "The word really describes that which has the dignity of holiness upon it. There are things in this world which are flippant and cheap, things which are attractive to the light-minded; but it is on the things which are grave and serious and dignified that the Christian will set his mind" (*The Letters to the Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians*, p.98).
 - Psalm 8:3-9 God demonstrates His Holiness in creation yet stops to take time to think about us!
 - Isaiah 6:1-9
- Whatsoever things are **JUST**
 - This word just has to do with the attitude and behavior we should have toward both men and God
 - The idea is that we are to focus on how we are to keep our duty toward men and God
- Whatsoever things are **PURE**
 - The application of this word is that we are to focus on things that are morally clean, spotless, stainless, and undefiled.
 - James 1:27 and Titus 1:15
- Whatsoever things are **LOVELY**
 - The application for you and I is that we are to think upon things that are pleasing, winsome, kind, and gracious
 - We are to think of ways in which we can build our fellow man up and not tear him down
- Whatsoever things are of **GOOD REPORT**
 - We are not to focus our thoughts on the "bad reports" that come in around us
 - Numbers 13-14 We find that Moses sent 12 spies into the promise land to spy on it.
 - Ten of those spies came back with bad reports, Two of them did not believe the report was bad
 - They said this is the land that is flowing with milk and honey, and they even brought back the fruit
- We are to think on things that have **VIRTUE AND ARE PRAISEWORTHY!**

III. The power of positive thinking can and does change the believer

- Power of positive thinking has the power to change the believer
 - I want to be clear that I am not talking about the positive thinking that the world teaches today
 - Notice that as we discussed the 7-8 items listed above we never discussed how that the power within us has the ability to create peace
 - This is the difference between worldly positive thinking and God centered positive thinking
 - The world puts the focus on the individual where as Christians place the focus on what God has the ability to do.
- The power of positive thinking simply starts with the word of God! (Verse 9)
 - Paul in his message to the church on peace simply preached the word of God
 - In each church that Paul planted he simply preached the word of God!

