

The Christian Thought Life

November 27th, 2011

Think on These Things?

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.

Philippians 4:8-9

The Seven Guides to Good Mental Hygiene

1. Is it True?
2. Is it Honest?
3. Is it Just?
4. Is it Pure?
5. Does it bear a Good Report?
6. Is it Virtuous?
7. and is it Praiseworthy?

If not, then don't spend your time thinking about it

For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

1 Corinthians 2:2

Jesus Christ, and Him Crucified

The great focus, message, and meditation of the Believer

- It is the Focal point of our Faith
- It is the Gospel - the power of God
- The Catalyst of our Understanding - the wisdom of God
- The Object of our Love and Affection
- The Wellspring of our Joy
- The Source of our Peace
- The Power of God unto Salvation
- The Root of our Every Doctrine

Everything is About Jesus and Him Crucified

- Every message is about Jesus, exalting Him, glorifying Him, and increasing our faith in Him
- Every message flows out of the exaltation of Him, His Work, and the Purchase of His Work
- Every discussion is about Jesus or increases our faith in His work
- Every doctrine stems from the Person of Jesus, the work of Jesus, and the victory of Jesus
- Every thought that is not born out of this faith-focus on Jesus and His Great-Cross Work, increasing the understanding of it, the adoration of Him, and the ever-increasing faith in Him and His work, is off-center and a distraction from the Center

The Muttering Growl (aka Meditation)

hagah [hä·gä'] - to mutter to oneself with a low growling voice

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

Psalm 1:2

Four Sorts of Armor for Around the Soul

1. The Cheap Stuff - Sponge

Yields to everything, cannot distinguish between friend and foe, and therefore, accepts poisonous thoughts without resistance and without even a growl of disapproval. Addicted to issues of self and unable to break the habit.

2. The Subtle Upgrade - Leather

Puts up a decent fight, but just can't handle the storms of life. Can't help but get soaked and heavy-laden when the winds and rains beat. Shows a bit of a growl, but not enough to win the day. Tough and turned outward, but still susceptible to turning inward when the right attack comes.

3. The Shield of Champions - Tin

Built for battle. Can handle the winds and rains like a champion, but dents rather easily to the weight of the battle axe. Random thoughts no longer hold sway and there is a tremendous guard up against self-analysis and self-pity. But, the right blow from the enemy can force this warrior to the tinsmith. Hardly a thing can bring this heart down, but the right blow can certainly throw him backwards for a while.

4. The Impenetrable Barrier - Diamond

Yields to nothing. Repels the enemy's battle axe as if it were the harmless thump of a rain drop. Invulnerable to every fiery dart. Keeps the mind sound always, fixed, unmoved, fearless, and dauntless.

The Divine Test for Every Thought

- He is **Truth** and thusly Honest in all His Word and no lie can be found in Him. Is that true of this thought?
- He is **Holy** and thusly “other-than” this world. Is this thought in agreement?
- He is **Love** and thus His end is always the highest good of others? Is that true of this thought?
- He is **Pure** and without spot of flesh or blemish of self. Is that true of this thought?
- He is **Just** and thus He is exact, precise, One of accurate scales and measurement. Is that true of this thought?
- He is **Merciful**. Is that true of this thought?
- He is **Patient**. Is that true of this thought?
- He is a **Life-giver** and thus He seeks edification in all things. Is that true of this thought?
- He is **Faithful** and thus He WILL perform all that He promises. Is this thought in agreement?
- He is **Sovereign Power** and thus He is able to perform all impossibilities. Is this thought in agreement?
- He is **Fatherly** and thus He is intimately and warmly acquainted with human circumstance and deeply interested in the fostering of life and health. Is that true of this thought?

... the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every**

thought into captivity to the obedience of
Christ . . .

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

What is a Distraction?

Anything that turns the eyes of the soul away from Jesus and Him Crucified

The Spongey Soul

The Heart and the Mind Magnetically Attracted to Self-Thought

1. Self-Analysis

1. Is something wrong with me?
2. Is something going to be wrong with me?
3. Is this spot cancer?
4. What is my body telling me?
5. Am I really saved?

2. Self-Help

1. How can I make my life better?
2. How can I be happier?
3. How can I be more financially stable?
4. How can I be healthier, stronger, more beautiful?

3. Self-Absorption

1. What do I want today?
2. I am more important than them.
3. I need time for me.

4. Self-Pleasure

1. The “I must feel good” fetish
2. Intellectual fetish (Understanding complex things)
3. Informational fetish (Constantly having something to chew on)

What is a Brilliant Distraction?

Anything that turns the eyes of the soul away from Jesus and Him Crucified, the whole while convincing them that Jesus and Him Crucified is their entire focus

Rightly Handling the Word

Reasonable Home-Construction

And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.

Matthew 14:14

- Jesus went forth.
- He encountered a great multitude.
- He was moved with compassion.
- He healed their sick.

Option #1 - The Kitchen Sink

People, People, and more People

over-emphasizing the multitude

And Jesus went forth, and saw **a great multitude**, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.

Matthew 14:14

Option #2 - The Guest Room

Compassion

over-emphasizing the need for compassion

And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was **moved with compassion** toward them, and he healed their sick.

Matthew 14:14

Option #3 - The Chimney

Healing

over-emphasizing the need for healing

And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and **he healed** their sick.

Matthew 14:14

Option #4 - The Surround-Sound 30-seat Theater

Straining to Find Meaning

over-emphasizing things that are not even correct

And Jesus **went forth**, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.

Matthew 14:14

Option #5 - The Foundation

Jesus

Increasing Jesus and thus creating context and perspective for every other truth

And **Jesus** went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.

Matthew 14:14

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Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus