

CHRISTIAN THINKING

Philippians 4:8-23

Introduction:

There are very few real Christian thinkers in the world today. The ability to think is a wonderful gift from God. The mind can lead us to find life or to lose our life and souls by pushing Christ out of our minds.

I. (v. 8-9) A CHRISTIAN MINDSET INVOLVES CONCENTRATION UPON WHOLESOME THINGS.

(Children's song: Input/Output)

1. The devil has placed his bid for our minds.
 - A. Anything he can do to occupy our minds to keep us from concentrating on God's word & will for our lives he will do it.
 - B. Col. 3:2 – ***Set your affections on things above and not on things on the earth.***
2. Concentrate on truthful things – A man false in his engagements will disgrace Christianity.
3. Honest – Dishonesty brings reproach upon Christians.
4. Lovely – This word has to do with lovely in attitude.
5. Things of good report – Concentrate on things of good report.
6. (v. 9) The God of Peace will guide your life if you do as He does – Paul said do as I do.

II. (vv. 10-11) A CHRISTIAN MINDSET INVOLVES CONCENTRATION UPON THE NEEDS OF THOSE THAT SHARE THE GOSPEL.

1. (vv. 10-11) Paul rejoices that the church once again is able to minister to his needs.
2. They lacked opportunity to help earlier.
3. (v. 11) Paul often had need but learned to be content.
 - A. He had learned to lean on Jesus.
 - B. Through it all he had learned to depend upon the Lord.
 - C. A contented mind is an invaluable blessing – not wanting unneeded things that won't be used.
4. (v. 12) He knew what it was to have plenty & little also.
 - A. Adversity keeps the mind right, where prosperity doesn't.
 - B. Paul experienced rapid changes in supplies in his life.
 - C. America hasn't been forced recently to depend on God.

5. (v. 13) Paul learned he could make it through Christ.
 - A. Songs – 'Jesus in the morning, Jesus in the evening' and "I Have a God Who Watches over Me."
 - B. If you walk by sight and not faith, it should scare you to death.
 - C. Have a friend that sticks closer than a brother.
6. (vv. 14-18) They took part in helping him and entered his affliction.

III.**(v. 19) A CHRISTIAN MINDSET INVOLVES****REWARDS TO CHURCHES.**

1. Rewards come to faithful Christians.
2. Rewards come to faithful churches.
 - A. God is not going to underwrite religious clubs.
 - B. God will underwrite a practicing New Testament church that's carrying out the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20).

IV.**(v. 20) A CHRISTIAN MINDSET INVOLVES GIVING GOD THE GLORY FOREVER.**

1. James 1:17 – ***For every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of Lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.***
2. I Thessalonians 5:18 – ***In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.***

V.**(vv. 21-23) A CHRISTIAN MINDSET INVOLVES CHRISTIAN COURTESY.**

1. Be convinced you are going to be courteous.
2. Go to guests and make them welcome.
3. Hebrews 13:2 – ***Do not be forgetful to entertain strangers for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.***

Conclusion:

Where is your mind? Will your mind focus on things that really matter in 2023 for God?