



DATE: 24 April 2024 WED
TEXT: **Philippians 4:8**
TITLE: **Introduction**

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

2 Corinthians 10:5

INTRODUCTION

- this series is intended to serve two purposes:
 1. as a companion to Bibliology
 2. something "less detailed" until Fall

Psalm 10:4

The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.

Psalm 139:2

Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.

Proverbs 23:7

For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...

NOTE: think about hailing a taxi in a large city... missionary's story in China

any given situation...learning from experience

from his letter: *preparing for imprisonment...
memorize 100 Psalms to nourish your spirit in prison,
never anticipate early release to avoid compromising
your principles, and prepare your household and church
for extended absence.*

so this series attempts to teach us how to ponder Scripture and think about biblical things so as to train our minds on becoming more godly

- with so many things competing for our attention, here is a good thing to know:

YOU CAN ONLY THINK ONE THOUGHT AT A TIME

- so forget trying to cram so many things into a day or an event and train your mind to think on the things of God

the average person is driven by emotions rather than right thinking, and as a result, wind up **reacting** to life rather than **responding** to it

2 Corinthians 10:5

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Paul challenged believers to bring down wrong opinions and take captive any thoughts that might lead to something other than biblically correct thinking

- throughout this study, you will hear verses that use various words and phrases connected to the idea of thinking:

consider	delight
be still	study
remember	set your heart
meditation	take heed
let this mind be in you	

- * can you think of a verse where each of these words appears???

Philippians 4:7-8

- in tonight's text, Paul tells us not only to **GUARD** our hearts and minds, but shows us how to **GUIDE** them, too

verse 2 conveys the topic of the passage

...be of the same mind

verse 7 **GUARDING** the heart and mind

keep = guarded by a garrison

verse 8 a **GUIDE** to protecting your thoughts

1. PROMOTING INNER CHARACTER

Job 31:6

Let me be weighed in an even balance,
that God may know mine integrity.

Psalms 139:23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me,
and know my thoughts: and see if there be
any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way
everlasting.

like Job and David, the Apostle Paul was concerned
with the inner character of believers...after all, God
looks on the heart **1 Samuel 16:7**

things that are TRUE

= not false or counterfeit

we do not learn what is true by
focusing on those things that are false

John 17:17 ...thy word is true

Psalms 119:160 Thy word is true
from the beginning...

things that are HONEST

= honorable; respectable; also “grave”

Proverbs 23:7

For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...

a steady diet of anything that is not honorable is sure to manifest itself sooner or later

things that are JUST

= right or fair

our character should always be concerned that there are no victims

the Greek word (*dikaios*) conveys the idea of duty or responsibility

every person has a duty to honor God and a responsibility towards others

2. PROMOTING INNER CLEANLINESS

Psalms 51:10

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Proverbs 20:9

Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?

things that are PURE

= sacred; holy

things that are pure have nothing added to them; they are unadulterated

things that are LOVELY

= literally, "toward friends"
it conveys the idea of being agreeable,
or acceptable

the opposite would be *bitterness, resentment,*
or *criticism*

while this word sounds foreign to our
daily conversation, British speakers use
it quite often

things that are of GOOD REPORT

= that which edifies or builds up

our thinking should always be towards building up
others rather than criticizing or tearing down

3. PRODUCING OUTER CONDUCT

Luke 6:45

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart
bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man
out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth
that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart
his mouth speaketh.

VIRTUE or valor, concerns itself with excellence

our daily struggle should be producing the
best of Christ in our lives

the *Virtuous Woman* of **Proverbs 31** and
David's Mighty Men of Valor found in
2 Samuel 23:8-39 serve as examples to
spur us on to great deeds

PRAISE only that which is best, true, just, etc. is
ever worthy of praise

Psalm 9:1

I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart;
I will shew forth all thy marvelous works.

Psalm 34:1

I will bless the LORD at all times: his
praise shall continually be in my mouth.

and notice Paul's advice: **think on these things**
= to take inventory; to reckon or count

The Christian who fills his heart and mind with God's
Word will have a built-in radar for detecting wrong
thoughts.

~ Warren Wiersbe

NOTE: David's words in **Psalm 19:7-11** serve as
a parallel passage to Paul's words