

**Right thinking leads to right living which leads to experiencing the peace of God
(Phil 4.8-9; 05-31-20)**

Central thought: Godly living is the fruit of godly thinking

I. Think Rightly (8)

A. Tie your thoughts to spiritual moorings *whatever is*

1. The *whatevers* serve as spiritual moorings for how we should think

a. True: trustworthy; dependable

b. Honorable: noble; worthy of respect; uplifting (cf. Eph 4.29; 5.4)

c. Just: right; equitable (cf. Deut 32.35; Matt 7.12; 1 Pet 4.19)

d. Pure (moral context): chaste; undefiled (cf. 1 Pet 1.15; 1 Pet 5.8; Matt 5.27-28)

e. Lovely: pleasing; agreeable

f. Commendable: of good repute; of the highest standards

2. The *ifs* in v8 are supplemental and inclusive *if there is any/anything*

excellence; worthy of praise serve as catch-all phrases; capture the spirit of right thinking

B. Focus your thoughts on virtuous living *think about these things*

We fight unhealthy and unholy thoughts by filling our mind with virtuous and holy thoughts

II. Live Rightly (9) *practice these things*

A. Associate with godly models *learned, received, heard and seen in me*

1. Another call to imitate a godly example (cf. 2.5-8; 2.19-30; 3.17)

2. Imitation involves both instruction and observation *learned and received heard and seen*

Axiom: If you want to get better at something, spend time learning/imitating someone who is better

B. Adopt godly methods (practices/behaviors) (cf. Matt 28.19-20) *practice these things*

1. Godly methods are not automatically adopted or applied – proven approach: use of spiritual disciplines (praying, reading Scripture, meditating on and memorizing Scripture, etc.)

2. Good doctrine informs & equips good practices

C. Apprehend godly peace *God of peace will be with you*

Close: Three implications & two applications

Imply

1. Christian life is a thinking life – ponder and consider godly characteristics
2. Christian life is also a practical life – embrace and adopt what we see in models that God supplies
3. Christian life is a witnessing life – godliness serves as a testimony to other saints & to the world

To the world, modeling virtues that are attractive (cf. Gal 5.23) becomes a witness for our faith
In the church, modeling should be others-driven; touchable & doable – modeling should equip doing

Apply: two practical suggestions fall in category of putting off and putting on (cf. Eph 4.22-24)

1. Reduce your exposure to ungodly things – make a list, pray about it & make some difficult choices
List should include people (you hang with); programs (entertainment); practices (habits)
2. Increase your exposure to godly things – make a list, pray about it & make some determined choices
List include same categories

Edison: “Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed up in overalls and looks like work.”