

“MIND YOUR FUTURE”

Philippians 4:8-9

The mind is your garden. What grows there will be up to you. Choose what grows/kill the snakes/pull weeds.

Philippians 4:8-9 ⁸Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. ⁹The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

I. The Power of the Mind

A. We need to see the power of our minds/our thinking: **V8** *think/meditate on these things.*

1. Our thoughts determine our actions: **Proverbs 23:7** *As a man thinks in his heart, so is he...*
 - a. Thoughts come first: *We act based on how we think!*
2. Whenever there are wrong actions/foolish actions – there were first wrong thoughts/thinking patterns
 - a. Thoughts of sin: Sin begins in the mind; *Imagining benefits/thinking why it's ok...*
 - b. Thoughts of fear and inadequacy: *I failed before/I'm going to look like a fool/it won't work*
3. Where you see success – there was first correct thinking

B. Our problem is we think incorrectly/incorrect thoughts: *Stinking thinking*

1. **Romans 8:5** *For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh...*
 - a. Past violations/past failures/
2. Many men simply let their minds drift/wander: They don't put effort in thinking correctly

C. Right thinking is a choice: **V8** *think/meditate on these things.*

1. You can choose to think about whatever you want to! *Think about your front door; Color/knob/side...*
 - a. So Paul says – think on good things: *It will determine your future!*

II. Focusing Your Mind

A. **Your mind needs a focus: V8** *...think/meditate on these things.*

1. In discipleship an excellent focus is on the future: *What you can be/what God wants you to be*
 - a. V8 *noble*: honorable/worthy of respect *of good report*: Admirable/fame
2. **Philippians 3:12-14** *...¹⁴I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*
 - a. I use to think about calling/preaching/dream about it/talk about it: The center of my thinking
 1. What you think about you line up your decisions and actions with
 - a. *RM's son in military: I am going to get out/be disciplined and sent out to be a preacher*

B. **Your mind needs an instruction**

1. It takes disciplined thinking to think about what you need to do to reach a goal
 - a. Better finances: What do I need to do? Better marriage: What can I do? Preacher: What will it take?
 1. *Graduation gift: I want study books! I want to learn God's word & learn how to preach*
2. You have to instruct your mind to think correctly
 - a. I feel sorry for myself: No! Not thinking like that! b. I can't do it: No! I can do what God says...

C. **Your mind needs a hero**

1. There are people who have the qualities you admire & want to become like them
 - a. Find someone who inspires you! *I wanted to be like my Pastor/like my Father*
2. Think about what makes them admirable: How do they speak/treat people...
3. Compare yourself to try and think like them: How would he approach this? What does he say about this
 - a. *Jesse quotes me a lot: He is becoming like me – he has my spirit/he thinks like me*

III. THE GOD OF THE MIND

A. Right thinking must produce action: **V9** *The things which you learned/received/heard & saw in me, these do*

1. You must do what you think - or act on what you are thinking about
 - a. Action is a discipline: I do what I don't feel like - regularly b. Action takes work
2. Right thinking brings the response of God: **V9** *the God of peace will be with you.*
 - a. God goes to work to help those who will think correctly
 1. David: You are uncircumcised/I have the Lord of Hosts: *God energized a rock!*