

... if there is any excellence,
if there is anything worthy
of praise, think about these
things. **Philippians 4:8**

Store In My Heart

Philemon 13-14

I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord.

Written about the same time as the letter to the Colossian brethren, Paul sends this letter with a slave that he had converted during his first imprisonment. Onesimus probably carried this letter and the one to the Colossians from Rome at Paul's request.

This verse reminds us that no matter what we might wish, we cannot force others to submit to God's principles. It must be a free will choice for each individual. All we can do is teach, encourage, and pray. Obedience is something one can only do for himself.



The Importance of Thoughts

Bill Crews

If you are concerned about your character, your conduct, your life and your destiny, then be concerned about your thoughts.

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" **Proverbs 4:23**

The heart is the mind, and the mind is the center of thoughts.

"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he" **Proverbs 23:7**

A man may not be what he appears to be, but he is what he thinks.

What goes into your mind, then, is extremely important. Be careful about the interests you acquire, the tastes you cultivate, the desires you develop. They shape what goes into your mind. The conversations you listen to, the scenes you observe, the movies you view, the TV programs you tune into, the newspapers, magazines and books you read, the songs by which you are entertained, the jokes you laugh at, the things you are taught all have a part in feeding information into your mind.

You evaluate and monitor all that you hear and see. Your standard for evaluation and your conscience are vital and

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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For Our Information

Joyce Venable is off most meds and on morphine for pain.

Ruben Keisler is doing ok after hand surgery.

Brenda Keisler is still waiting on MRI results for her hip.

Adelaide's other Grandfather, James Lesher, is to have part of his lung removed Wednesday due to cancer.

Tonight we start in 2Samuel 12:24.

Wednesday we will start Colossians.

Come study with us.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

play their roles. You may seek out or receive what is vulgar or distorted, or you may reject and refuse it. You may pursue and embrace what is wholesome and true, or you may have no interest in it and neglect it. Be cautious, particular and selective about what goes into your mind. If you allow garbage to go in, then garbage will come out in the form of words and deeds.

What goes on in your mind is also extremely important. Be careful about your thoughts, meditations, desires, ambitions, daydreams and fantasies. You determine what goes on in your mind. You are the master of it because you have control over it. It is your own little secret world -- except that God knows all about it, and will one day bring it to light when you have to answer for it in the judgment (**Ecclesiastes 12:14; Acts 17:30-31; Romans 2:16; 2Corinthians 5:10**). And sooner or later it will find expression in your life and make itself known.

We cannot be like God without thinking the thoughts of God. We cannot know the thoughts of God apart from the revelation of the things of God in the word of God (**1Corinthians 2:11-13**). We cannot have the thoughts of God in our hearts apart from reverent study of and meditation upon the word of God, coupled with a sincere desire to do the will of God (**John 7:17**).

(There are things that come to my mind from time to time that are the residue of things I read or watched when I was a young man. Many of these things are helpful and good, but some of them are things I wish I had never exposed to my thoughts. I suspect most of us have a few things that we would be happy to never have come to mind again. And I don't mean only things that sadden us.

The above article deals with the things we allow into our minds and reminds us that we need to control those inputs. There is little I can do about the things I read or watched in the past besides pushing it aside as soon as it comes to the surface. I can control what comes into my mind from today forward. More reading from God's Word will certainly help with this, but we also need to be careful of the other things we hear and see. Let us keep our minds filled with what is good and pure. (**Philippians 4:8**) DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!