

CITIZEN OF HEAVEN

Think On These Things



SERMON BASED STUDY

WEEK 10 - Nov 15 - FALL 2020

INTRODUCTION: Welcome to your Small Group. Our semester is almost over for sermon based; who would be interested in leading a group next semester (Feb. 2021)? Let's also plan a missional project and a Christmas party.

THE BIG IDEA: A CITIZEN OF HEAVEN - What do we think about; and what should we think about?

ICEBREAKER: If you lived in the Hundred Acre Wood with Winnie-the-Pooh, which character would best represent you? Winnie-the-Pooh, Tigger, Eeyore, Piglet, or Owl? (And what would others say?)

S. O. A. P. (STUDY OBSERVATION APPLICATION PRAYER)

Read Philippians 4:8-9 - "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

OBSERVATION

Philippians 4:8-9 - A citizen of Heaven: Think of these things

1. Paul has arrived at the conclusion of his teaching on spiritual stability. Vs. 8
 - a. Dwell on – is a command or an imperative meaning “to evaluate” or “to consider”
 - b. We need to think biblically, allowing the Word of God to direct our thinking
 - c. “Whatever is true” means reading, analyzing, and meditating of the Word of God.
2. The final element that is essential for spiritual stability. Vs 9
 - a. “Practice” means repetition or continuous action
 - b. “Learned” is a form of a Greek word related to the noun “disciple”.

Now that you are a disciple of Jesus, put these things into practice.

“Believers must be disciplined to add to their faith the proper attitudes thoughts, and actions described in this passage. Only then will they develop spiritual stability in their lives.” - *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary Philippians* (John MacArthur)

APPLICATION (Questions)

- 1) When you wake up and begin a new day, where do your thoughts take you? Are they positive? Or do they tend to be more negative?
- 2) Read *Philippians 4:8*. Based on Paul's encouragement, why does he want the reader to focus on what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable? How will thinking about these things lead you to a life well lived?

- 3) How carefully do you evaluate your sources of information? List some of the good sources and the bad sources you have encountered in your life. How do you dwell on what is good? Vs. 8
- 4) Discuss the following truth: “My life moves in the direction of my strongest thoughts.” Vs. 9
- 5) What difference could it make if you were to pause before you act to give room for the Holy Spirit to guide you by asking: “What would a great _____ do?” (Examples: husband, wife, son, daughter, neighbor, boss, friend, brother, sister, small group leader, follower of Jesus). After we “do” these things, what does it mean to have the God of peace with you? Vs. 9

GROWING IN DISCIPLESHIP DISCIPLINES IN PHILIPPIANS

A disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ consistently studies God’s Word in an objective manner to understand truth about God. Faith is the assurance and conviction of truth. (Hebrews 11:1)

- This week, set a goal to grow as a student of God’s Word by following these steps:
 - Observation: recognize the facts clearly and without bias
 - Interpretation: use questions and tools to correctly grasp the author’s intent
 - Correlation: evaluate how the text fits into the broader scope of biblical truth
 - Application: a specific plan to change one’s way of thinking or acting
- Many disciples set aside a specific time *separate* from their daily time of devotional reading and prayer to be more intentional and methodical about becoming biblically literate. When would be a good time for you?
- You might want to read more about how to study. Two books that have been helpful to others are *Living by the Book* by Hendricks and Hendricks and *Women of the Word* by Jen Wilkin and Matt Chandler

HOW MY GROUP CAN PRAY FOR ME

RESOURCES (For more in-depth study)

1. Preceptaustin.org or StudyLight.org – Find a very detailed commentary about each of the verses in this passage
2. Gotquestions.org – https://www.gotquestions.org/content_Bible_studying.html will give you an overview of the questions related to how and why study the Bible
3. Blueletterbible.org - Commentaries are located under “tools” next to each Bible book verse.