

Philippians 4:8-9

DWELL ON THESE THINGS

Philippians 4:8-9

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

⁹ The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Whatever is...

- true
- honorable (NET: worthy of respect)
- right (ESV: just)
- pure
- lovely
- of good repute (NET, ESV: commendable; NKJV: good report)

If there is...

- any excellence (NKJV: any virtue)
- anything worthy of praise (NKJV: anything praiseworthy)

Keywords in Philippians 4:8

- **true**: Greek alēthēs (adjective)
- This word refers to truth in character
- In John 14:6 Christ tells His disciples,
*"I am the way, the **truth** (noun: aletheia) and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through me."*

Keywords in Philippians 4:8

- **honorable** (NET: worthy of respect): Greek semnos (adjective). The related verb sebomai means to worship
- This word (semnos) means that which invites reverence, or is worthy of reverence
- Dr. Luke uses the verb form (sebomai) in Acts 16:14 to say that Lydia, the first believer in Philippi, worshipped God

Keywords in Philippians 4:8

- **right** (ESV: just): Greek dikaios (adjective).
- 1 John 2:1-2,
*"¹ My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the **righteous** (dikaios); ² and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world."*

Keywords in Philippians 4:8

- **pure**: Greek hagnos (adjective). Sincere motives (see also Philippians 1:17)
- 1 John 3:3,
*"And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is **pure** (hagnos).*

Keywords in Philippians 4:8

- **lovely**: Greek prophilēs = pros + philēō = (literally) toward + brotherly love; dear to someone, beloved. That which causes people to be pleased with something.
- In 1 Corinthians 16:22, Paul uses the last part of this word (philēō) about the believers' love for the Lord Jesus Christ
- In John 16:27 this same word (philēō) is used of the love of the Father toward the Son (Christ) & of our love for Christ

Keywords in Philippians 4:8

- **of good repute** (NKJV: good report): Greek euphēmos = well spoken of, worthy of praise, good rumor.
- Characterized by words of good import or acclamation; praiseworthy (see use of related noun in 2 Corinthians 6:8)
- Christ is proclaimed to be praiseworthy by the heavenly angels & elders in Revelation 5:12,
"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."

Whatever is...

- true
- honorable (NET: worthy of respect)
- right (ESV: just)
- pure
- lovely
- of good repute (NET, ESV: commendable; NKJV: good report)



If there is...

- any excellence (NKJV: any virtue)
- anything worthy of praise (NKJV: anything praiseworthy)

Keywords in Philippians 4:8

- **excellence** (NKJV: virtue): Greek aretē = what gives man his moral worth, his efficiency. Superiority or being pleasing to God, or the superiority of God revealed in the work of salvation.
- 1 Peter 2:9-10,
⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies (aretē, in plural form) of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."

Keywords in Philippians 4:8

- **worthy of praise** (NKJV: praiseworthy): Greek épainos = epi + ainos = upon + praise. That which is worthy of or deserves praise.
- Ephesians 1:6-11 uses this same word (epainos) four times for the praise of the Lord for what He has so marvelously done in blessing us with every blessing in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 1:3)

One more thing...

- **"Whatever"** & **"if"** are often used in such casual & nonspecific ways in our culture that we risk losing the sense of what Paul has written here
- His intent was to be inclusive of all that has the character of Christ
- The "if" at the end of the verse is a fulfilled condition (so Paul was not conveying doubt, but assuming it was reality)

Keywords in Philippians 4:8

- **dwel** on (NKJV: meditate on): Greek logizomai. To think about something in a detailed and logical manner— to think about, to reason about, to ponder, keep mental record, bear in mind.
- This word was an accounting term, & means in this context to consider carefully, as one would do in making a calculation or accounting entry
- It is a present imperative: we must of logical necessity, based upon our eternally fixed position in Christ, continue to carefully consider the qualities of Christ given in this verse

All that is being woven into Philippians is
an issue of

PERSPECTIVE

The froneo family of words in Phil

1:7 - froneo	3:15 - froneo
2:2 - froneo	3:16 - froneo
2:2 - froneo	3:19 - froneo
2:3 - tapeinofrosune	4:2 - froneo
2:5 - froneo	4:10 - froneo

Paul has woven this thread of being minded (froneo) throughout every chapter of the fabric of Philippians

Mindedness is all about Christ

- **Positional Truth**

*"But we have the mind of Christ."
1 Corinthians 2:16b*

- **Conditional Truth**

*"Let this mind be in you which
was also in Christ Jesus,"
Philippians 2:5 (NKJV)*

Philippians 4:9

⁹ The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

The things you have...

- learned and
- received and
- heard and
- seen in me
- practice these things, and
- the God of peace will be with you.

Keywords in Philippians 4:9

- **learned:** Greek manthanō. To acquire information as the result of instruction, whether in an informal or formal context—'to learn, to be instructed, to be taught.'
- This is the verb root of the word for disciple (mathetes) - "a learner"
- Paul had spent enough time with these saints that there was plenty for them to draw upon
- Paul had not thrown them a few tidbits here & there but had brought them along in the grace & knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ so that they had learned – they had been disciples

Keywords in Philippians 4:9

- **received:** Greek paralambánō. to acquire information from someone, to receive to oneself.
- This is a word Paul used to refer to his teaching or being taught:
 - 1 Corinthians 11:23; 15:1, 3
 - Galatians 1:9, 12
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 4:1
 - 2 Thessalonians 3:6
- In each use, there is a sense of completeness & precision implied in what Paul had been taught by the Lord & had in turn communicated to the saints

Keywords in Philippians 4:9

- **heard:** Greek akouō. to listen or pay attention to a person, with resulting conformity to what is advised or commanded—'to pay attention to and obey.'
- Ephesians 1:13
*"¹³ In Him, you also, after **listening** (akouō) to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation— having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise"*

Keywords in Philippians 4:9

- **seen in me:** Greek eidō. To see with perception, observe.
- Paul was not expecting them to believe, much less live out, something that was not reality in Paul's own life
- Paul says that they had seen the things that they had learned & received & heard in Paul's life – it was real!

Some key points in verse 9

- The words "learned" & "received" & "heard" & "seen" are all connected with "**and**"
- This is for **emphasis!**
- It is also to link all the ways that we learn: spoken & written & lived out in another's life – like Paul's was
- The Greek words "learned" & "received" & "heard" & "seen" are all in the active voice
- Being spiritually equipped is not a spectator sport! (Ephesians 4:11-16)

Paul wrote in Philippians 3:17

*“Brethren, join in following my example,
and observe those who walk according
to the pattern you have in us.”*

Keywords in Philippians 4:9

- **practice these things** (NKJV: do): Greek prassō. To do, make, perform in general, expressing an action as continued or not yet completed, what one does repeatedly, continually, habitually. Is a present active imperative.
- Based on our eternally fixed position in Christ, the only logical conclusion we can draw is that we are to continually put into practice - in our daily condition - the things we have been taught from the Lord through His word & seen biblically exemplified in others He has placed in our lives for edification

Keywords in Philippians 4:9

- the God of **peace** will be with you: Greek eirēnē. peace, harmony, tranquility;
- You might say the *God of no worries*.
- In Philippians 4:7, Paul wrote about “the peace of God”
- Now he writes about “the God of peace”
- This same phrase is used in Romans 15:33; 16:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:23 & Hebrews 13:20

Philippians 4:8-9 Expanded & Explained

⁸ Finally, all of you, being spiritually related by reason of their mutual relationship in Christ, all those things that are true, all things honorable, all things right, all things pure, all things lovely, all things of good repute, since there is moral excellence and since there is worthiness of praise, carefully consider and reckon upon these things.

⁹ The things you have learned as a disciple and received from me your teacher and heard from me and seen as reality in me, you must put into practice by reason of your eternal position in Christ, and as you do so, the God of peace will be with you, so as to provide every resource
- His life - for your doing so.