

**MESSAGE TITLE:** Living with Peace, part 4

**SCRIPTURE:** Philippians 4:8-9

### **KEY TRUTH**

Even though we live in a world that is filled with instability and conflict, God offers His people peace. This morning, we will see that how we think will influence how we live and set us on a path of living in God's Peace.

### **GETTING STARTED**

By the word 'finally', Paul indicated that he was about to conclude the section. He highlights six items as objects of a wholesome or godly-thought life. He introduces each one of these items with the word, 'whatever'. In the Greek, whatever is plural. This suggests several things could be included under each heading. These six objects of thought are described as excellent or praiseworthy.

### **OBSERVATION**

*Paul begins this section with the word 'Finally'. How do verses 8 and 9 relate to verses 4 through 7?*

*What specifically does Paul tell believers to dwell on mentally? What did Paul mean by encouraging his readers to 'think on these things'?*

*What does Paul tell his readers to practice?*

*What does he promise will happen to those who put these things into practice?*

*What does he mean by telling them to 'practice these things'? Does this imply doing 'these things' one time or repeatedly?*

### **APPLICATION**

*The Bible teaches the importance of thinking rightly or dwelling on things that are true. Check out just a couple of passages that address the use of our minds:*

- *Isaiah 26:3-4. How does Isaiah say people experience the peace of God? What does it mean to stay your mind on something? How does this passage parallel Philippians 4:8-9?*
- *Colossians 3:1-4. How can believers set their minds on things that are above? What things might those be? What reason does Paul give for setting one's mind on things above? How does this passage parallel Philippians 4:8-9?*

*Consider the several 'whatever' characteristics Paul lists in verse 8. What do these descriptors mean in your context? Take some time in your group to ask God to show you personally what He wants to fill your mind according to the descriptions Paul gives in this verse.*

*Read verse 9. Obviously, we cannot learn or hear Paul in person. What do you believe God wants you to personally put into practice so that the God of peace will be with you? What practices does He want You to put to death that might be hindering your peace of mind?*

### **PRAYER**

*Dear God, please renew the spirit of my mind (Ephesians 4:23) so I think your thoughts and have your desires. Help me camp out on the promises of your word that You show me. Lead me by the hand to the truths of Your Word that you want me to consider. And show me how to make those truths my own by the person and power of the Holy Spirit.*

### **SHARE POINT**

Read and review the application questions. Share with someone in your life how God's Word is changing you into a growing disciple. Encourage that person to do the same. That person could be a family member, a friend, a co-worker or a neighbor.

### **COMMENTARY NOTES**

4:8 Paul encouraged the Philippian believers to become pre-occupied with things that please God. To help his readers understand what he meant, he identified the characteristics of things that occupy their minds: true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent and praise-worthy.

4:9 Beyond having a proper spiritual outlook, the Philippians are to practice what they have seen Paul doing. As they make progress in this way, they will find that it's not simply the peace of God but the God of peace Himself who will be with them.

### **SOURCES CONSULTED**

ESV Study Bible

The Bible Knowledge Commentary

Holman Christian Standard Study Bible