

THE GOOD NEWS GAZETTE

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Think on these things...

Philippians 4:8-9

What Is Pure?

Reality television has invaded homes across America. Much of the interest stems from simple curiosity about how other people act and live their lives. The popularity of Duck Dynasty demonstrates this. We want to know their story. We, as humans, are sometimes just plain nosey. Some seek answers to their problems by watching the experiences and solutions of others. Hence the popularity of Dr. Phil. Those from broken and distressed home lives will seek positive role models and mentoring in good life skill training. Reality television allows us to look at others and at the same time see ourselves in a unique way as we identify with those we watch.

On a recent television show about the biggest loser (of excessive weight), I saw mentoring in action as a coach came along side to show, tell, and teach his contestants/clients how to set and achieve goals for their good and their health. During the show, the coach is seen to comfort and console with the issues faced. On occasion, the mentoring coach "calls the person out" on their poor thinking and behavioral habits. The mentor often orchestrated challenges as steps toward the ultimate goals. He walked along side to lead the way to accomplish the needs and desires of the contestant/client. When necessary the coach would "crack the whip" to spur someone out of their apathy, poor effort, or feelings of

discouragement. As long as the contestant/client stayed with the program and for the most part, tried to follow the mentor, progress toward their goals were accomplished and the viewing public cheered.

For Christians, one of our goals involves becoming more Godly in our thoughts and behaviors. Paul gives us the recipe for the steps to Godliness. In Philippians 4:9 Paul said, "What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me-- practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you." Paul mentored the Philippian church with his words and actions. Through those same words he wrote almost 2000 years ago, Paul mentors us today.

One thing Paul said for us to think on was things that are pure. When I think about things that are pure, several images come to mind. First, I see a clear view of a towering mountain capped with pristine, white snow glistening in the sunlight. The majesty of God's creation and the beauty of the four seasons that pass year after year without fail simply astounds me. Next, I see a bride in a long white dress. Her head has a veil of lace as she stands quietly beside her father. Untouched, virtuous, and a gift of incalculable value, she is presented to her groom and prepared to commit herself fully to a lifetime of love and faithfulness to one man, her husband. Third, I see a newborn baby, small yet perfectly formed as a miraculous manifestation of the

love a husband and wife shared together. These are the images I see when I think of the word pure. I'm sure you have images of equal beauty in your mind's eye as well.

In the Bible, there are many references about making things of pure gold. Highly valued, pure gold has no impurities. Precious metals like gold and silver are refined or made pure by burning off other minerals and impurities with high heat. David compares the purity of God's word with refined silver in Psalm 12:6. It says, "The words of the Lord are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times." Psalm 19: 8 tells us "... the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes." Here are two things that God says are pure. God's words and his commands are pure giving us wisdom.

Proverbs 15:26 reveals "The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the Lord, but gracious words are pure." As we learn God's word and adhere to his commands, we will have a purity in our words that reveals graciousness. In II Corinthians 11 Paul entreats the church at Corinth saying, "I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness. Do bear with me! For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be lead astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ." Paul mentored and labored to bring these Christians to Christ, but was fearful they would be tempted away from Christ by the devil. He wants the Corinthian Christians to keep their sincere and pure devotion to Christ. In chapter ten verse five of II Corinthians, Paul says, "... and take every thought captive to obey Christ." This is why Paul says to think on things that are pure. What we think about --our thoughts will determine our purity.

In conclusion, I'd like to emphasize a couple promises and rewards that result when we think on things that are pure. First, we are promised that the God of peace will be with us (Phil 4:9). In a world full of trouble and turmoil,

who wouldn't want the peace of God? God's peace gives us assurance, comfort, and confidence in every area of our lives. Second, Psalm 24:4 says, "Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob." God has a reward for those that seek him and are pure. In I John 3:3 we read, "everyone who thus hopes in him (God) purifies himself as he (God) is pure." Just like gold is refined with fire to cleanse it of all that is not pure gold, Christ through his sacrifice, can remove our sins, refine us, and live within us to make us pure before God. I pray that God will work in us and through us to think on things that are pure because Matthew 5:8 confirms the promise of Psalm 24 saying, "Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God." What a promise! I hope to see you there with me when I finally see God! God bless you as you think on these pure things.

Robin Robbins House



DID YOU KNOW?

1. The oldest man in the Bible died before his father. How can this be?
2. What prophesy of Enoch is found in the next to the last book of the Bible?
3. How many generations were there from Adam to Enoch?
4. How long did Enoch “walk with God”?
5. How old was Enoch when he walked with God?
6. How long is a cubit in inches?
7. How long were Noah, his family, and the animals in the ark?
8. Who was the first man to be called a mighty hunter?

RECIPES

LOW CALORIE APPLE CRISP

- 4 Cups Granny Smith apples peeled cored and thinly sliced (4-5 apples)
- 1/4 cup apple juice
- 2 Packets of Stevia natural sweet herb
- 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/4 cup Quaker instant oatmeal - Cinnamon Spice flavor
- 1/4 cup all purpose flour
- 1/3 cup light brown sugar, firmly packed
- 1 1/2 Tablespoon margarine

Preheat oven to 375°

For filling, combine apples with apple juice, stevia, and cinnamon in a large bowl.

Spray 8X8” baking pan with cooking spray. Spread apple mixture evenly over bottom of pan.

For topping, combine oatmeal, flour, brown sugar, and margarine in medium bowl.

Sprinkle oatmeal topping over top of apples.

Bake 30-35” or until fruit is tender and topping is golden brown.



Please feel free to submit recipes, positive quotes, comments, etc. to
The Good News Gazette at thegoodnewsgazette1@gmail.com

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for they shall see God.”

Matthew 5:8

