

THE GOOD NEWS GAZETTE

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Think on these things...

Philippians 4:8-9

Things of Good Report and Admirable

Among the list of things to think about in Philippians 4:8, Paul lists things of “good report” (KJV and ASV) or “admirable” (NIV). In Ephesians 2:23 it says Christians are “to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” The point of thinking on things that are of good report and admirable has a purpose. It creates changes in how we act and behave. Following are several stories I found to be of good report and admirable to share with you.

Through an obscure search for a good news report, I learned that World Kindness Day was on November thirteenth. Though launched by the World Kindness Movement in 1998, I had never heard of it. Celebrated each November 13th, its mission is to promote kindness and recognize acts of kindness by individuals and groups. Numerous non governmental organizations (NGOs)

have jumped on the band wagon to promote and encourage random acts of kindness on this special day. Japan, Singapore, Nigeria, the United Kingdom, and the Arab Emirates are just a few countries across the globe that celebrate the day. Recognition of World Kindness Day has been sought within the United Nations as well. Though not seemingly associated with any religious or other philosophy, World Kindness Day ranks as something admirable and of good report in my mind.

A special event like World Kindness Day brings brief attention once a year to how we treat each other, but the non profit group, “This Must Be For You,” celebrates and promotes kindness on a day to day basis. “This Must Be For You” began when two friends were discussing how they would enjoy receiving a random present from someone. They surmised that if a random gift could make them happy, it could make others happy as well. Natasha Cutts’ “This Must Be For You” program leaves anonymous presents in public places for anyone to find. Natasha says that you don’t have to

know someone to be kind to them. Being nice to others engenders a spirit of altruism throughout a community. Jesus says in Luke 6:38, “give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” Taking time to think of others and prepare a gift to be freely given to a complete stranger is admirable and according to scripture can be personally rewarding as well.

Along a similar vein, the group, “Make Me Joyful,” with its motto “do good, feel good” was developed by Cheryl Adamson. Mirror.co.uk reported that when Cheryl focused on moments of joy, she noticed more and more of them. The more joyful moments she noticed, the better she felt. Her organization seeks to spread joy and help people see joy in life. Cheryl says that “too often we’re buffeted by external events.” “Cynicism is easy but there is no downside to a kind act - it improves everything” In Galatians 6:21 Paul says, “the fruit of the Spirit is love, **joy**, peace, long-suffering, **kindness**, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control; **against such there is no law.**” Cheryl’s Random Acts of Joy seeks to create a domino effect where one act of joy leads to another. Galatians 6:9-10 encourages us by saying, “And let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. So then, as we have opportunity, **let us work that which is good toward all men**, and especially toward them that are of the household of faith.”

When we read about and think on things that are admirable or of good report like these stories, it promotes a mindset for acting admirably. In Ephesians 2:10, Paul tells Christians, “For we are God’s workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus to do good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” In II Timothy 3:17 lets us know that God’s word is useful to make the man (or woman) of God “**thoroughly equipped for every good work.**” Reading and studying God’s word will give us the tools and skills to do things that would be of good report. Listening to and reading about stories that are of good report and admirable inspire and encourage us, as well. Lastly, I Peter 2:12 says Christians are to “Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.” Let us all think and act on things that are of good report and admirable. Let us be the light for others in the darkness of a sinful world. Let the world, when they see our behavior, know the hope that is in us as Christians and give glory to God. God bless you as you think on these things ...

Robin Robbins House



DID YOU KNOW?

In what town was Jesus born?

Who was king when Jesus at the time of Jesus' birth?

From where did the Magi come?

What was the sign that the king of the Jews had been born?

How did the people of Jerusalem react to the news of Jesus' birth reported by the Magi?

What two things did the Magi do when they found Jesus?

What caused the Magi to not report back to King Herod?

After the Magi left what did the angel of the Lord tell Joseph to do?

What was King Herod's decree/reaction to being outwitted by the Magi?

All of these answers can be found in Matthew chapter two.

RECIPES

Beef Stroganoff

Ingredients

Salt and Pepper

2 tsp paprika

1 1/2 pounds beef stew meat, cut into cubes

1 Tablespoon vegetable oil

2 Cups sliced shiitake mushrooms (6 oz) or white mushrooms

3 shallots, thinly sliced

1 1/2 Cups low-sodium beef broth

1/2 Cup sour cream



Directions

Sprinkle salt, pepper, and paprika over beef. Warm oil in large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook beef, stirring occasionally, until meat is browned on all sides, about 8 minutes. Transfer meat to slow cooker. Add mushrooms, shallots, and remaining 1 tsp paprika to skillet and cook for 2 minutes, scraping any browned bits from the bottom of the pan. Pour mixture over the beef in the slow cooker, cover and cook on low until beef is tender, 6 hours.

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

*I will praise God's name in song and
glorify him with thanksgiving.*

Psalm 69:30



Photos by Robin House