

THE GOOD NEWS GAZETTE

THINK ON THESE THINGS...

PHILIPPIANS 4:8-9



Coat of Many Colors

Recent events have brought to mind the many twists and turns life can take. As I approach the end of 2015, I recall successes and failures, trials and triumphs, and things that began and ended. In spite of my whims and wishes — day after day, moment by moment, time has marched ever forward. Once in a while, I can step back in time with a memory or movie that recalls the past and helps me see my future more clearly. That was the case recently as I watched the movie, Coat of Many Colors, on NBC. If you haven't seen it, please do. The movie is a true life story set 60 years ago. It reflects the challenges, opportunities, and dreams of people in that time and, uniquely, in our time as well. The messages and morals of this movie are something not to be missed. It could change your life.

The quotes, "Time marches on." and "Life happens." are true. Unfortunately, some believe they have no control over how their lives happen. Life does — just happen to them. They ride along the tide of life with a sea of humanity without purpose or plan. Their destiny is uncertain because they are **unaware, undecided, and unprepared**. Life does happen, but in many circumstances, we have the opportunity to choose how it will happen. More importantly, we can

choose how we will react to life as it happens. The movie, Coat of Many Colors, brought this message home to me.

According to Wikipedia, GIGO is an acronym that came into existence (ironically) on April fool's day in 1963. It is a computer term that stands for "garbage in, garbage out." Because computers work logically from the information a programmer inputs, GIGO means that if you put garbage in, you will get garbage out. In other words, you can't expect a good or accurate output/result from inputting inaccurate and bad information into a computer. Today, many are unaware that they are inputting garbage into their bodies, minds and spirits. Like junk food from a convenience store that fills the belly but doesn't nourish the body, many are surprised that they are in ill health physically, mentally, and spiritually because of the things they allow into their bodies, minds and spirits. They have no peace of mind, happiness or true satisfaction in their lives.

With no established filter (morals/values) to guide them, many are ambivalent about what they should do or shouldn't do, and how they should or should not live their lives. They follow the crowd that promotes cultural filth as fashionable. They don't understand that sin corrupts, corrodes and

crushes hopes and dreams. Constantly surprised that their lives are a wasteland of discord, disappointment, and devastation, they chase after happiness where it can not be found. When morals don't matter, anything goes. Society says that if it feels good, you can do it. When the abnormal is normalized, diversity is mandated, and tolerance is demanded, you have a people and a society off track. Once a year, however, there is still a time when people are looking at the good and seem to seek the things that are right and true. That time is between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

During Thanksgiving and Christmas time, Christmas and Hallmark movies are abundant. I love watching these movies that speak of kindness, nobility, wonder, love, and a Lord that gave His all for us. I like happily ever after stories where dreams come true. I enjoy seeing the good guys win. My heart warms with triumph over tragedy. I love real news stories of hope and love that are brought to light during the holidays. During this time of year, it seems that even Hollywood promotes peace on earth and goodwill to men. There seems to be less "garbage" on television. In Philippians 4:8, Paul tells us what we are to think on. He says, "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." When we think on these things there is a wonderful promise that goes with it. Paul says that when we put these things into practice "the God of peace will be with you." So many are looking for peace in all the wrong places. The Bible clearly tells us how we can have the peace of God in this life and the next one.

For those that are undecided about how they should live, Romans 12:2 says, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will." When we put good things in our minds and hearts, we are guaranteed good outcomes and results. Will everything always be perfect and rosy? Of course not. Everyone encounters challenges and consequences. In Matthew 5:43-48, God says it rains on the righteous and unrighteous and the sun shines on the evil and the good person. This is where being prepared comes into the picture. When we are prepared for whatever may come our way with a confidence from knowing we serve and live at the pleasure of

the Creator of everything, we can stand the tests and challenges life presents to us. When we renew our minds with the good things listed in Philippians 4:8, we can choose good actions and attitudes. We won't be floating along with the crowd, but will be able to chart our life course with the plan God has prepared for us. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." In Psalm 37:25 David says, "I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread." Throughout history, those who humble themselves, trust, and follow God are blessed. They are blessed in their physical lives now and throughout eternity. When we are aware of this information and have decided to live the life God wants us to, we will be prepared for whatever this life throws at us. We will also be prepared for an eternity with God.

In the new year, let us think about the term GIGO and protect our bodies, minds and souls from the garbage that is offered up for our consumption. Let us be **aware** of God's good and perfect will. If we haven't already, let us **decide** to humble ourselves before God to trust and follow his lead. Lastly, like Paul in I Corinthians 9, let us live in such a way that we are **prepared** for the crown that will last forever. May God bless us as we think on these things.

Robin Robbins House



Memory Verse

**God looks down from heaven on the sons of men
to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.
Psalm 53:2**

What Does the Bible Say?

Who did Jesus take up a high mountain with him?

What did Jesus look like when he was transfigured?

Who appeared and spoke to Jesus when he was transfigured?

What did Peter say and want to do?

What enveloped them on the mountain?

Who spoke from the cloud and what did he say?

How did the disciples react to the voice?

What did Jesus tell the disciples to do?

When could the disciples tell of the event?

Who was Elijah equated to by Jesus?

What did the man from the crowd ask of Jesus?

Who had failed to help the man's son?

What did Jesus say when the boy with seizures approached him?

Why couldn't the disciples help the boy with seizures?

How much faith does it take to move a mountain?

With what amount of faith does Jesus say "Nothing will be impossible for you."?

What did Jesus tell his disciples in Galilee?

What was the reaction of the disciples to Jesus' news?

What did the tax collectors in Capernaum ask of Peter?

From whom do the kings of earth collect duty and taxes?

Who is exempt from paying taxes?

Why did Jesus say for Peter to pay the tax?

Where did Jesus tell Peter to get the money for the two-drachma tax?

What size coin was found in the fish?

Answers to the questions above can be found in Matthew chapter seventeen.

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My 2016 Challenge for Good

Take the time now to be aware of where you are and decide what you will do to prepare yourself to put in the good (not garbage) in 2016.

In 2016, I will consider how to...

In 2016, I will begin to ...

In 2016, I plan to ...

In 2016, I will seek to ...

In 2016, I will serve ...

In 2016, I will say ...

In 2016, I will submit to ...

In 2016, I will strive to ...