Coronavirus Social Distancing Daily Devotion #52

Think on These Things

***Philippians 4:8 (NASB)*** *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.”*

Have you ever met someone who is always negative? The people who are the “glass-half-empty” people? The “Johnny-rain-cloud”? And as hard as you try they always come back with something negative? I think of them as Eeyore from Winnie the Pooh. Everything is a bother. Everything is a burden. Everything is difficult and boring and challenging, etc. I don’t know about you, but when I’m around someone like that I feel like an extra weight is on me.

As I was driving to the office this morning, I couldn’t help but notice the beauty of everything. It is amazing what God has given us. The sky is so blue and the earth so green from the rain and there is a freshness of spring and the closing in of summer. With all the world’s problems and the difficulties of the virus, there is so much to enjoy and to appreciate.

Think about how God gave us the bodies we occupy while on earth. They are incredible space suits, so to speak. They can get wet and not get ruined; they can adjust to hot and cold; they can regenerate to a point; they can heal themselves. Our bodies are incredible. Just the human eye alone is mesmerizing. To think that the things we see visually come in to our eyes upside down, but then flip right side up by our brains is awesome.

Think about how each of us is different. Designed by God to look, act, feel, process, work, differently. There are no two people alike. Sometimes it does seem like there are those who came out of the same mold because they look and act so much alike, but even then they are different in many ways.

The Apostle Paul had been through many, many difficult challenges in his life. He saw the most difficult situations any person could see, and he survived them. And you would think if anyone had the right to be negative and complain about his life, it would be Paul. But in his final words to the Philippian church, he helped them focus on what was good. He reoriented their spiritual eyes to the things of this life that are beautiful. They needed that, and we need that daily.

God has not redeemed us to punish us with a terrible life. He saved us so we could have life and life more abundantly. (John 10:10) He really wants us to feel and experience His blessings and to live our days full of joy and confidence and truth. He wants our minds to focus on what is good and righteous and not get lost in the devilish world of negativity and despair.

Beloved, could I encourage you to pay attention to where you spend your time in your minds? To pay attention to how your mind processes life. Do you automatically see the glass half empty, or do you see it half full? Do people generally irritate you or do you see the beauty of God in every soul? Do you focus on the things that are false and get you nowhere, or do you thank God for the fact that He is alive and in control of all situations, even if they appear to be overrun with evil?

Paul reminded the people to think on the things in life that are true, not false. He reminded them to think on the things that are pure and lovely and worthy of taking our time, not a waste of time. He encouraged the church to focus their attention on the things in this life that are blessings and spend time praising God for them.

When the world encounters us, the church, let us be the examples of positivity and love so they will know it is possible to have hope in a world that is dying, and, then, we can “give an answer for the hope that lies in us”.