
TRUE, NOBLE, RIGHT, PURE, LOVELY...

Thursday, May 14th 2020

Philippians 4:8-9

“Finally, brothers and sisters, 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. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”

True, noble, right, pure, lovely... Paul gives us fairly clear principles here about where our focus should be. At the same time, he reminds us orient our lives around the gospel message that we have heard and received.

It's important to understand that our thoughts affect our lives by often turning into everyday actions, which eventually become habits, and ultimately shape our character. We also need to understand and admit that our thoughts are to a large extent shaped by the media we consume. ***We should therefore ask ourselves in simple, practical terms: What kind of films, podcasts, books, etc. do we fill our free time with?***

I don't think it's just a matter of just watching Christian films and boycotting everything else. But Paul gives us a good filter with this list and asks us to be more sensitive to the things that we fill our time, our thoughts and our hearts with.

Which things ***fill up*** our time, and which things do we try to use to ***fulfill*** our lives? Are they things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy?

In everything we do, we should keep the gospel message close to our hearts. I think Paul made this message very clear over the course of his letter to the Philippians; it's about living out of grace, becoming more like Jesus and being filled with the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Then we can know that the God of peace is with us!

Prayer: God, we thank You for any extra free time You have given us! Please lead our thoughts to things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and worthy of praise. Give us a gospel mentality that rules in every area of our life! Amen.

-Finn Langenbach-

