

Sunday Night Message

September 25, 2016


























Psalms 119:113 - 120 – *Separated from Worldly Thinking*

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 119:113 - 120

## Introduction

We are continuing our examination of the longest Psalm as well as the longest chapter of the Bible. As we discussed last week, this psalm is a Hebrew acrostic where every eight verses are separated into sections where the first letter of each verse begins with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The first eight verses each begin with “Aleph”, the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Verses 9 – 16 all begin with “Beth”; verses 17 – 24 all begin with Gimel; and, so on.

									
Yod (Y)	Tet (T)	Chet (Ch)	Zayin (Z)	Vav (V)	He (H)	Dalet (D)	Gimel (G)	Bet (B/V)	Alef (silent)
									
Ayin (silent)	Samech (S)	Nun (N)	Nun (N)	Mem (M)	Mem (M)	Lamed (L)	Khaf (Kh)	Kaf (K/Kh)	
									
Tav (T)	Shin (Sh/S)	Resh (R)	Qof (Q)	Tsadeh (Ts)	Tsadeh (Ts)	Feh (F)	Peh (P/F)		

We do not know the writer of this psalm, though we think it must have been a “high profile” person, perhaps a king or a priest. Nor do we know the historical context. There is no doubt, however, as to the theme of the psalm. 170 out of the 175 verses in this psalm speak directly regarding the Word of God. The writer to this psalm is expressing his love and devotion to the Word of God, and is encouraging us to do the same.

Phillips has said regarding the anonymity of the writer:

Throughout this psalm we are made aware that the singer is in trouble. We would like to know who he was—David, perhaps, or Daniel, or Hezekiah. But since he has remained

anonymous (making this psalm one of the “orphan psalms” of the Hebrew hymn book) the Holy Spirit intends his sufferings to be of universal significance. Any beleaguered saint of God can put his or her name at the head of this psalm and sing it themselves.<sup>1</sup>

"SAMECH."

*"I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love."* - (Psalm 119:113)

*"Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word."* - (Psalm 119:114)

*"Depart from me, ye evildoers: for I will keep the commandments of my God."* - (Psalm 119:115)

*"Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my hope."* -  
(Psalm 119:116)

*"Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe: and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually."* -  
(Psalm 119:117)

*"Thou hast trodden down all them that err from thy statutes: for their deceit is falsehood."* -  
(Psalm 119:118)

*"Thou puttest away all the wicked of the earth like dross: therefore I love thy testimonies."* -  
(Psalm 119:119)

*"My flesh trembleth for fear of thee; and I am afraid of thy judgments."* - (Psalm 119:120)

## Introduction

The phrase “vain thoughts” here means divided thoughts, as in from a skeptic. The psalmist is saying here that he hates thoughts or philosophies that come from those who don’t believe the Bible. The world is full of philosophies that are contradictory to the Word of God. We need to protect ourselves against these by knowing and believing the Book.

*"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish."* - (Psalm 1:1-6)

*"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living*

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<sup>1</sup> Phillips, J. (2012). Exploring Psalms 89–150: An Expository Commentary (Vol. 2, Ps 119:81–88). Kregel Publications; WORDsearch Corp.

*sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." - (Romans 12:1-3)*

Turn to Philippians 2:1 – 11 – v. 5 – “let this mind”

*"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee." - (Proverbs 23:7)*

*"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." - (Genesis 6:5)*

If we are to be right, then we have to think right; and, if we are going to think right, we will have to meditate on good things:

Turn to Psalm 19: 7 – 10; 14

*"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer." - (Psalm 19:14)*

Turn to Philippians 4:8 - 9

*"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you." - (Philippians 4:8-9)*

Introduction

Mark Twain wrote, “What a wee little part of a person’s life are his acts and his words! His real life is led in his head, and is known to none but himself. All day long, the mill of his brain is grinding, and his thoughts, not those other things, are his history.”

*"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." (Isaiah 26:3)*

*"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" (2 Corinthians 10:5)*

Our world is upside-down today in its thinking. The devil has duped us into believing that the things that God says are good are actually bad, and vice-versa.

*"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isaiah 5:20)*

We need to re-capture the thought lives of Christians today before we completely lose this generation.

## I Thoughts are the Roots of our Actions

*"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: (Matthew 15:19-20a)*

I heard a story of a mother who was peeling vegetables for a salad when her daughter, home from college, casually mentioned she was going to a questionable movie that evening. The mother suddenly picked up a handful of garbage and threw it in the salad. "Mother!" said the shocked girl. "You're putting garbage in the salad."

"I know," replied the mother, "but I thought that if you didn't mind garbage in your mind, you certainly wouldn't mind a little in your stomach." Garbage in – Garbage Out

Let's examine verse 8 closely:

*"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true,*

God's Word is truth:

*"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." (John 17:17)*

God's Spirit is truth:

*"This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth." (1 John 5:6)*

Satan is a liar. Much of what is coming through the philosophy of this world is a lie straight from Satan.

Dr. Walter Cavert reported a survey on worry that indicated that only 8 percent of the things people worried about were legitimate matters of concern! The other 92 percent were either imaginary, never happened, or involved matters over which the people had no control anyway. Satan is the liar (John 8:44), and he wants to corrupt our minds with his lies (2 Cor. 11:3). "Yea, hath God said?" is the way he approaches us, just as he approached Eve (Gen. 3:1ff). The Holy Spirit controls our minds through truth (John 17:17; 1 John 5:6), but the devil tries to control them through lies. Whenever we believe a lie, Satan takes over!<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). The Bible exposition commentary (Vol. 2, p. 95). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just,

These words mean honorable or worthy of respect; and righteous. God wants us to think about things that are right.

whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report;

“Pure” means wholesome, clean, moral, and modest. Think about what you are watching on television. Pre-marital sex, homosexuality, immorality is promoted. Immodesty is everywhere. Drunkenness is acceptable.

“Lovely” – means something that is beautiful to look upon – not in a lustful way.

“Good Report” – means something that is worthy of reporting, something that will be of benefit – think about all of the negative things we talk about – all of the gossip.

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." (Ephesians 4:29)

if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." (Philippians 4:8)

“Virtue” – means good character or moral goodness.

“Praise” – means praiseworthy – something that we can praise.

## **II Actions are the Fruit of our Thoughts**

*"Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do:"*  
(Philippians 4:9a)

Who you are: the things that you do and say are a direct result of the things that you have been thinking about.

Paul, not only recommended that people heed the doctrine that he had taught them, but he also told them to consider his example. Paul practiced what he preached, and he was a great illustration of a joyful, Spirit-filled Christian.

## **III Joy is the Result of Right Thinking and Right Doing**

*"...and the God of peace shall be with you."* (Philippians 4:9b)

When you think right, you do right, and when you do right, you have peace. Peace is a tremendous source of joy.

When you think wrong, you do wrong, and when you do wrong, you feel guilty, and guilt is a robber of joy.

**Conclusion Practical Points**

One of the biggest problems facing Christians today is the bombardment of wicked, worldly, or just wasteful seed thoughts into our lives through the medium of entertainment. Most of what is coming into our lives through the television and internet is completely contrary to what God would say is good.

Illustrate – commercials on TV are often worse than the show we are watching. We can control the show, but we can't control the commercials. (Milk Maid Crackers – depicting a "wholesome" family made up of two homosexual men; IFC show – commercial actually depicts a woman sitting on a man's lap having sex; numerous commercials for Viagra; etc.)

- 1 **Removal** - As much as you can help it, stop thinking about things that are outside of the will of God.

This is where it will get very practical. We mentioned different kinds of negative and harmful thoughts that are influencing our actions.

Identify these things in your life. (Television shows, Internet website, Facebook or other social media, places you go, people you run with (negative people and gossips), music you listen to – run all of these things through the test of Philippians 4:8)

How are you going to remove them? What tangible steps are you going to take to eliminate these thoughts from entering your life.

- 2 **Replacement** - As much as you can, put into your mind thoughts that are within the will of God.

What tangible ways are you going to add the right thoughts to your life:

Read your Bible

Church

Fellowship with God's People

Godly Music

Wholesome television shows

Busy yourself with service (Illustrate – putting together John and Romans; going soulwinning; visiting your Sunday School class)

The reason why so many of us are miserable and depressed is because we are not thinking straight, which is affecting what we do, which is decreasing our joy. What Are You Thinking?