

Think on These Things—Set Your Mind on Things Above— February 20th and 23rd, 2020
Colossians 3.1-4, Philippians 4:8

Philippians 4.4,8

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

⁸ 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.

Colossians 3.1-4

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Read and Discuss

Introduction

Pastor Jacob finished his series on Philippians 4.8 by restating that Paul has been writing encouragement for Jesus followers to think about (or set their minds) on higher things. The last two kinds of things to think about in Paul's list are 'excellent' and 'praiseworthy'. These words serve as a catch-all for the previous words as well as other things that might be considered excellent or praiseworthy. The list is not exhaustive, but we are invited to decide whether or not things or people in our lives are causing us to look up to the higher things.

Engage the Scripture

- Read Philippians 4.4,8. As you look at this short list one more time, remember that Jacob said this list was not meant to be a complete list of all the things that are excellent or praiseworthy. What else would you add to a list of things that are excellent and praiseworthy?
- Read Colossians 3.1-4. Make a list of daily activities that cause your head (or soul) to feel lowered. Now make a list of things that leave you walking around with your head up (and your shoulders lifted). Consider how you might set your mind on things above.

Leaves me feeling laid low...

Lifts my head to things above...

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- Jacob used the metaphor of an athletics coach to describe what Paul is doing in these verses. Most coaches want their players to focus on the fundamentals. Dribbling and shot form in basketball, ball control and crisp passing in soccer, tackling and separation in football. When it comes to the Christian life the fundamentals are prayer, scripture, worship, serving others, and doing life in community. Have you lost focus on any of these fundamentals? Where do you have room for improvement, how can you serve as a coach to other Christ followers?
- Colossians 3.4 speaks of Jesus appearing. How do you imagine the return of Jesus to restore this broken world? What do you think Paul means in this promise that we will appear with Jesus in glory? If we are attending to the fundamentals of the Christian faith when Jesus appears, we will know him and he will know us. Reflect on this promise.

Pray

Pray these words together, and include an example of each word.

God help me to think about that which is:

*TRUE
NOBLE
RIGHT
PURE
LOVELY
ADMIRABLE
EXCELLENT
PRAISEWORTHY*

Amen.