

Think Rightly, Live Rightly

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, June 7, 2020; Steve Thiel

Sermon Theme: Christians are called and commanded and empowered to stand firm in their faith, despite the difficulties of this life, by thinking rightly about who they are in Christ so that they might live rightly, rejoicing in the Lord, content in all circumstances, and grateful for God's good and perfect work in other people's lives.

I. Resolved to Think Godly – Philippians 4:8-9

- A. As you evaluate your own thought life, how would you describe it? According to Paul, on what should we be thinking (4:8)? And where does right thinking always lead (4:9)?
- B. Why is it critical to think about what is true? What passages in the New Testament connect the good news of the gospel and our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ to truth?
- C. For the believer, how is the truth about our identity in Christ critical to walking in obedience?
- D. If you had to decide, what one area in life would you like to grow in thinking rightly and why?

II. Resolved to Learn Contentment – Philippians 4:10-13

- A. Why do you think Burroughs titled his book, "*The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment*"? How would you define Christian contentment? According to verses 11-13, what are some observations that you make about Christian contentment from what Paul highlights?
- B. Over the course of your life, can you think of seasons or circumstances when you learned some level of contentment from the school of prosperity or poverty? How are passages like 1 Timothy 6:17-19 and 1 Timothy 6:9-10 helpful in understanding the importance of learning those lessons?
- C. What "*needs*" tend to threaten your contentment? What are some practical things that you can do to fight those temptations and ensure that you are actively content in Christ and Christ alone?

III. Resolved to Live in Partnership – Philippians 4:14-23

- A. What do you think is the relationship between being in partnership with the gospel and giving financially to the church? How and why are those two things connected or disconnected?
- B. How would you evaluate yourself in the area of being an encourager? Are you prone to rejoice in the faithfulness of others or criticize them for failures, real or perceived?
- C. Paul says, "*My God will supply all your needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus.*" Jesus says, "*Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things (food, clothing, shelter) will be added to you.*" As you look at your life, how well do you do at trusting these promises?
- D. What do you think was the biggest takeaway for you from the book of Philippians?