

Homework sheet

1 Jo 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (ESV)

Thought Gate

It is so important that we carefully guard our minds. The Word of God places a great importance on how we think. Proverbs 23:7 says “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.” In fact, Paul warned the church at Corinth to “take every thought captive” (2 Cor. 10:5).

God has provided us specific instruction on the kinds of thoughts we are to allow ourselves to dwell upon. Having a good understanding of this instruction can provide for you a “thought gate.” Every thought we are tempted to dwell on must make it through a series of check points! These are found in Philippians 4:8.

Memorize Philippians 4:8. Study the verse carefully (some commentary help has been provided) to fully understand what each word means.

Check-point	Based on your study, write down questions you can ask yourself to be sure your thoughts are passing through these check-points.
True	<i>Do I know FOR SURE that this thought is true?</i>
Nobel	<i>Is this thought respectable or is it profane?</i>
Just	<i>Is this thought in line with God’s standards of what is right?</i>
Pure	<i>Is this thought morally clean?</i>
Lovely	<i>Is this thought pleasing (lovely) to God?</i>
Of Good Report	<i>If others knew I was thinking this, would it be considered a good thing?</i>

Commentary on Phil. 4:8

4:8 true. What is true is found in God (2 Tim. 2:25), in Christ (Eph. 4:20, 21), in the Holy Spirit (John 16:13), and in God's Word (John 17:17). **noble.** The Gr. term means "worthy of respect." Believers are to meditate on whatever is worthy of awe and adoration, i.e., the sacred as opposed to the profane. **just.** This refers to what is right. The believer is to think in harmony with God's divine standard of holiness. **pure.** That which is morally clean and undefiled. **lovely.** The Gr. term means "pleasing" or "amiable." By implication, believers are to focus on whatever is kind or gracious. **of good report.** That which is highly regarded or thought well of. It refers to what is generally considered reputable in the world, such as kindness, courtesy, and respect for others.¹

YOUR NOTES:

Gr. Greek

¹MacArthur, J. J. (1997, c1997). *The MacArthur Study Bible* (electronic ed.) (Php 4:8). Nashville: Word Pub.