

Philippians 4:8-9

3 Defenses Against Being Cynical



Context/Background

- Author: Paul
- Written: (Approx. 60-62 AD) to believers in Philippi
- Setting: Paul is under house arrest in Rome while awaiting trial; chained to Roman guards
- Major Theme: The joy and peace that comes from knowing and serving Jesus
- 4th Chapter: (vv. 8-9) Progressing with God despite world

Discerning Godly Perspectives

- (v. 8) Paul seeking answer of how to experience God's peace and joy while living in world
- One focus: discerning godly perspectives; look for and give attention to godly aspects and works around us
- Meditate: calling to mind (over and over) spiritual truth or attributes of God; to mentally rehearse Scripture and its application
- True, noble, just, pure, lovely, good report, virtue, praise

Colossians 3:1-2, “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”



Doing Godly Practices

- (v. 9a) Paul shares about being a doer of the Word (very similar to Phil. 3:17)
- Not work “for” salvation, but work “out” salvation
- Word “do”- to put into daily practice, to apply habitually and consistently
- Put into action that which was; learned, received, heard, and seen

Rom. 12:9, “Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.”

Rom. 12:21, “Do be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good.”



Depending Upon God's Presence

- (v. 9b) Paul encourages strong relationship with Jesus
- Those who received Jesus' free gift of eternal life can depend upon God's presence, power, and peace
- God is faithful and provides for His children
- We can bring our cynicism to Jesus and know He understands and can help us with it

Ps. 51:10, “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.”

Ps. 23:3, “He restores my soul; He leads me in the path of righteousness for His name’s sake.”

Matt. 24:12, “And because lawlessness shall abound, the love of many will grow cold.”



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