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Grace Notes Radio Program

SERIES: Think Right Thoughts – What is PURE?

SONGS: ALL THE GLORY 3:22

These things are true 3:22

INTRO: Welcome to Grace Notes. Our topic in this series is ‘Thinking Right Thoughts’. Philippians 4 verse 8 is our text. It says..

**Whatever is TRUE
whatever is NOBLE
whatever is RIGHT
whatever is PURE,
whatever is LOVELY,
whatever is ADMIRABLE;
If anything is excellent or praise-worthy
THINK ABOUT SUCH THINGS.**

So far, we’ve found that God’s WORD is TRUE – it’s the standard to use in judging WHAT to think about. God’s WAY is NOBLE – it’s the method to use in EXERCISING God’s Word. And God’s WILL is RIGHT - It’s what we should follow to live out God’s word. On today’s program, Barbara Sandbek will define what PURE thinking is.

The word ‘Pure’ means ‘not contaminated or defiled’.

Proverbs 30:5a says...Every WORD of God is pure.

God’s way and will are shown through His pure word. Psalm 119:9 says...

How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to Your Word.

Ok, it’s your turn. We’ve identified God’s WORD, WAY and WILL as right things to think about. Can you figure out what other aspect of God goes with PURE thinking? Here’s a hint – it begins with a ‘W’.

It’s God’s WISDOM. James 3:17a says...

...the wisdom that comes from Heaven is first of all PURE.

What is wisdom anyway? It’s the ability to discern truth. It’s also the correct use of knowledge. In other words – it’s selecting the right end using the right means. God’s wisdom is different than man’s wisdom in that it is not self-gratifying.

For example, let's take a look at satan, who was known as Lucifer before his fall. Here's what God said to him about his wisdom in Ezekiel 28...

"You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty (13)... You were blameless in all your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. (15)...Your heart became proud on account of your beauty and YOU CORRUPTED your wisdom because of your splendor. (17a)

A pastor friend of mine said, "Lucifer developed 'I'itus." Notice all the I's in this passage about him in Isaiah 14:13-14...

You said in your heart, " 'I WILL' ascend to heaven. 'I WILL' raise MY throne above the stars of God; 'I WILL' sit enthroned on the mount of assembly... 'I WILL' ascend above the tops of the clouds. 'I WILL' make myself like the Most High."

Lucifer became proud. He wanted to be worshipped as God. That's the danger of consuming knowledge on our own lusts. The saying goes...

The one who possesses knowledge is proud that he has learned so much but the one who possesses wisdom is HUMBLE that he knows no more.

Let's look at King Solomon. He was known as the wisest man on earth. God blessed him with wisdom so that He could use it to benefit the kingdom. But instead, Solomon corrupted it and used it for his own personal gain.

God's wisdom is also the center of truth. When truth is suppressed, God is not pleased. Listen to Romans 1:18-22...

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – His eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools.

It goes on to say that they changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served CREATED THINGS rather than the Creator. Because of this, God 'gave them over' to the sinful desires of their hearts, to shameful lusts, and to a depraved mind to do what ought not be done.

Job 12:13 states...

"To GOD belong wisdom and power; counsel and understanding are His. God alone is to be worshipped - all the praise and glory belong to Him.

***** ALL THE GLORY *****

Solomon knew wisdom was beneficial, but he didn't understand that it can't be bought or worked for. Listen to what he wrote in Proverbs 4:5-7...

Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them. Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. Wisdom is supreme; therefore, get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.

It doesn't cost us anything to get wisdom, but it cost God the life of His Son, to give it to us. God, in His wisdom, discerned that we were unrighteous and needed a Savior, so He provided the right means, His sinless Son, to pay the penalty for our sin. Jesus exemplified the wisdom of God by humbling Himself and becoming obedient unto death on a cross, so that those who believe might be saved. Jesus IS the wisdom the world needs.

When we seek wisdom through Christ we can receive it, according to 1 Corinthians 1:20-25 which says...

Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the POWER OF GOD and the WISDOM OF GOD.

Verse 30 continues speaking to Believers saying that Christ Jesus has become for us wisdom from God - that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

So, how does THINKING PURE (or wise) THOUGHTS benefit us? Proverbs 3:13 says...

Blessed (or happy) is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding.

In 2 Samuel 22:27 King David wrote of the Lord...

To the pure, You show Yourself pure.

Matthew 5:8 says...

Blessed are the pure in heart for they will SEE God.

Our hearts can be pure, washed as white as snow, only through the blood of Jesus. With Christ, in our lives, we, too, can reflect the wisdom of God as we ascribe to live a holy life through the power of the Holy Spirit, who works in us through the knowledge of God's word, God's will, God's way and God's wisdom. These alone are pure - so THINK ON THESE THINGS.

***** **WRITER: Tommy Walker**

***** THESE THINGS ARE TRUE *****

*Unshakeable, immovable,
Faithful and true
Full of wisdom,
Strength and beauty
These things are true of You*

*Fearless, courageous,
Righteousness shines through
In all You do
Yet You're so humble You laid
Down Your life
These things are true of You*

*Chorus
And as I turn my face to You
Oh Lord I ask and pray
By the power of Your
Love and grace
Make these things true of me too
Make these things true of me too*

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