Maintaining the Peace of God

Philippians 4:8-9

Introduction:

I. Think Right – 4:8

“Finally, brethren,” — “meditate on these things”

A. “Whatever things are True” - ἀληθῆ

1. Definition of True –

True to fact – conforming to reality

a. Of Jesus - Matthew 22:16 - The Pharisees with the Herodians

1) You are true

2) You teach true things

3) You don’t fear men.

4) You don’t regard the person of men.

b. Of God - John 3:2

“we know that You are a teacher come from God” - If you accept Jesus’ teachings, you are saying that God is true.

c. Of the Word of God –

1) True Sayings – Titus 1:13

“The cretions are lazy and slow”

2) The true Grace of God – 1 Peter 5:12

“this is the true grace of God in which you stand.”

3) True Proverb – 2 Peter 2:22

“But it has happened to them according to the true proverb:

4) True Commandment – I John 2:8-9

“Love your brother”

2. Application of True –

a. Learn what is true in the Word

That means – study the Word. The best way to answer the cults is not to know all about them but to know the truth.

b. Learn what is true in every situation of life

* Don’t jump to conclusions.
* Don’t believe anything you hear and only half of what you see.

B. “Whatever things are Noble” – σεμνά

1. Proper motives – Do things for the proper reasons. Be open as to why you are doing something.

2. Proper manner – Be considerate of the feelings of others.

3. Proper morals – Be careful not to step over the boundaries of decency in word or deed. Be careful of the notion – anything for a laugh (course jesting) Eph. 5: “neither filthiness, nor ﻿﻿foolish talking, nor coarse jesting,”

C. “Whatever Things are Just” – δίκαια (a state of being right)

1. We have God’s imputed righteousness - 2 Corinthians 5:21 (A righteous standing)

2. We are exhorted to accept God’s imparted righteousness. (Our righteous state)

3. Paul is saying that it starts with our thinking

1. Meditate on God’s Word (be holy for I am holy)

b. Appreciate righteousness in others.

c. Appropriate righteous words and deeds.

Think before you speak or act. Put your mind in gear before you open your mouth. James said, “be swift to hear and slow to speak.” 1:19

d. On the other side of the coin,

Don’t let unfair treatment make you a sour person. We as believers are in for quite a bit of unfair treatment with no “court of appeal.” Go to the “supreme court” of the universe. We have the best attorney – and He is free! He always listens to our cause. Of course, there is the other attorney, (Rev. 12:10)

D. “Whatever Things are Pure” - ἁγνά

Free from defilement, not contaminated. Chaste, moral.

From the root ἅγιος – holy. (τοῖς ἁγίοις – to the saints.)

1. “Keep Yourself Pure” - I Timothy 5:22

2. Get Good Advice – James 3:17

But ﻿﻿the wisdom that is from above is first pure, if it is not pure, it is not from God.

You have heard the murderer say, “God told me to do it”? No matter how much he insists that God told him or led him to do it, that is not from God.

E. “Whatever Things are Lovely” - προσφιλῆ

Literal are toward love, pleasing, or lovely. If it causes strife or divisions, it is not from above, but from beneath.

James 3:14-15

“But if you have ﻿﻿bitter envy and ﻿﻿self-seeking in your hearts, ﻿﻿do not boast and lie against the truth.”

This wisdom does not descend from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, and demonic. For ﻿﻿where envy and self-seeking *exist,* confusion and every evil thing *are* there.

F. “Whatever Things are of Good Report” - εὔφημα

“Uttering words of good news” - well sounding, or appealing.

Bad reports sell newspapers and increase listening audiences, improve ratings, but we are to think on the good report.

The next two clauses begin with an “if.”

G. “If There is Any Virtue” - ἀρετὴ - excellence.

Used only two other times in the New Testament.

1Peter 2:9

“…that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you…

2 Peter 1:3

“…knowledge of Him ﻿who called us to﻿ his own glory and excellence,﻿”

The believer should exhibit excellence in everything he does:

1. Personal Life – habits and character - that’s

* what you are,
* Who you are,
* Wherever you are.

1. Home Life – Family – Give the kids something to live up to, not something to live down.

3. Work – (Vocation) Working for the Lord, He is your boss!

4. Play – (Avocation) excellent skills and temperament. If you are thinking on excellence, you are likely to turn out excellent things.

H. “If There is Anything Praiseworthy” - ἔπαινος

If there is anything that deserves your praise, look around your culture for the things that are praise-worthy and –

Conduct yourself accordingly - Traffic laws, tax laws, other things…

Remember that the governing authorities are ordained by God. Rom. 13.1

II. Do Right – 4:9

Do these things:

“Read this before you attempt to assemble” - Would you rather read the directions or look at a diagram?

Paul has just given the directions for the peace of God. Now he is going to point them to the diagram (example) Himself.

A. Careful Instruction – 4:9a

"those things which ye have both learned and received"

1. They learned it as a matter of information.

2. They received it as a matter of personal experience.

B. Concrete Example – 4:9b

“and heard and saw in me,”

1. You heard when I was absent

2. You saw when I was present

C. Convenient Application – 4:9c

“these *things* do”

It is not enough to know, we must be sure to do what we know - "if ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them", (John 13:17).

The Truth is not simply something to be discovered, to be understood, to be admired, to be preached – it is something to be done!

III. Be Right – 3:9d

﻿“the God of peace will be with you.”

The result of all this hundred-per-cent life is that "the God of peace shall be with you" Before, he had said, "the peace of God" v.7, now, better still it is "the God of peace". These all-out Christians shall have a new sense of the presence, and power, and purpose of their GOD.

Conclusion: