

***What Do
You Think?***

Philippians 4:8

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Introduction

A. Our thoughts reveal who we are

Proverbs 23:7

For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

1. We are not what we think we are

Galatians 6:3

For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

2. What we think, we are

Introduction

B. Paul called for thoughts centered in praise (4:8)

- 1. He rejects negative, critical thinking as improper for believers**

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

- 2. “If there be any virtue, and if there be any praise think on these things”**

I. Why Our Thought Patterns Are So Important To God?

A. What we think determines what we say and do

B. A thought is the father of every word

1. Words that do good

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

2. Words that do harm

James 3:10

**Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing.
My brethren, these things ought not so to be.**

I. Why Our Thought Patterns Are So Important To God?

C. A thought is the father of every act

1. Every act of kindness and love

Ephesians 4:32

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

2. Every act of crime and violence

Proverbs 1:10

My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

I. Why Our Thought Patterns Are So Important To God?

D. God is interested in the topics about which we choose to think

E. We need to ask the Lord to know our thoughts

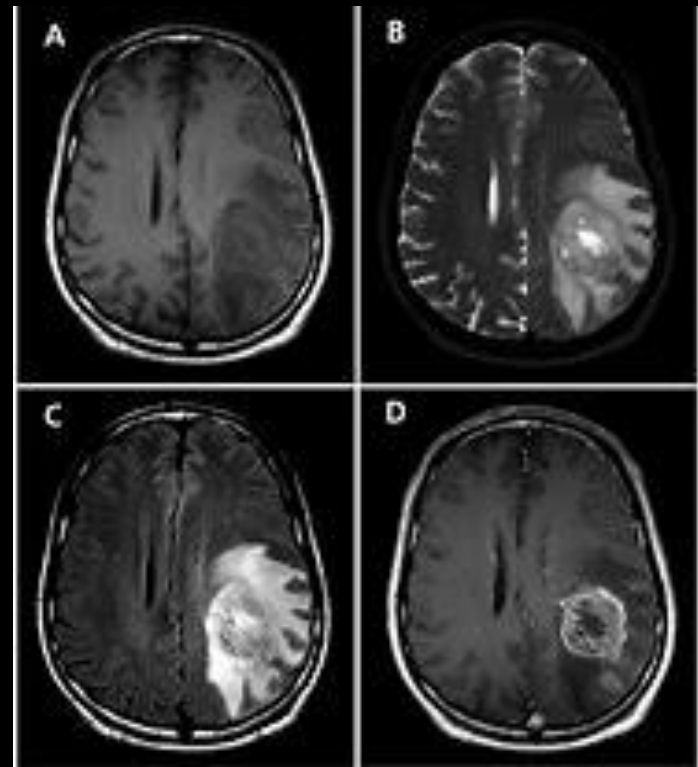
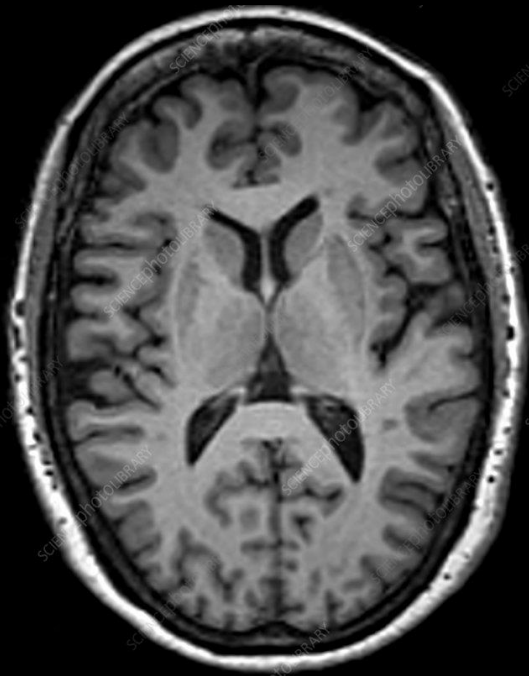
Psalm 139:23-24

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

II. How We Can Tell If Our Thought Patterns Are Pleasing To God

A. Paul summarizes the focus of our thoughts if they are to please God



II. How We Can Tell If Our Thought Patterns Are Pleasing To God

B. Our thoughts should be of things that are true

C. Our thoughts should be of things that are honest

D. Our thoughts should be of things that are just

Acts 10:22

And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.

II. How We Can Tell If Our Thought Patterns Are Pleasing To God

E. Our thoughts should be of things that are pure

2 Corinthians 10:5

**Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that
exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and
bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of
Christ;**

II. How We Can Tell If Our Thought Patterns Are Pleasing To God

**F. Our thoughts should be of things that are lovely and
of good report**

G. Our thoughts should be of the best in others

1 Corinthians 13:5

**Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is
not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;**

H. Our thoughts should be focused on praising God

Psalms 119:171

**My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy
statutes.**

III. How We Conform Our Thought Patterns To God's Will

A. Right thoughts come from hearts right with God

Ecclesiastes 9:1

For all this I considered in my heart even to declare all this, that the righteous, and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God: no man knoweth either love or hatred by all that is before them.

III. How We Conform Our Thought Patterns To God's Will

B. We must confess our wrong thoughts to the Lord

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

C. We must choose good mental input to produce good thoughts

**If Christ Returns Today, What Will He Find In
Your Mind?**