

Attitude meets the Holidays

Dr. Byron Morgan

Introduction

Holidays can be a very lonely time.

Set of unique pressures and stresses

- family issues are resurfaced
- expectations that family members have of you
- money issue

This can be the most lonely time of the year for people.

Think about your attitude this season.

our attitude shouldn't be:

let's just get back to the routine (forget the holiday season)

Philippians 4:4

How should we think during the holidays?

What are the things that cause people to lose their joy, peace, and fruit of the Holy Spirit?

1. Hurt when people don't come to our activities. We use passive aggression
2. When people don't meet our expectations
3. Our disappointment makes us feel unloved or not liked. (We feel rejected)
4. We feel lonely and thus rejected.

Context

Paul is writing from a prison

Theme of book is joy.

In the midst of rejection, turmoil and beating he talks about having joy.

Philippians 4:4-7

How can I have joy and peace in this season?

Be discriminating thinkers

Come to know Christ

Philippians 4:8

Be tuned into Christ!

“if” first class condition
or “since”

Romans 10:9

A believer cannot flip a switch and suddenly change the way he thinks.

Once we are in Christ how do we recalibrate our thinking?

Fix your mind

Dwell "lagizomai"
to count reflect, reckon, calculate.
Present tense command
continue to calculate and think about

Don't be a reactionary thinker! Be a reflectionary thinker!

John R. Stott quote on how sin nature has an easy hold on us when our feelings control us.

We are to put our thinking onto the things listed here.

This here is what the Bible describes as meditation!

You are “pulling the trigger over and over and over again on the things listed in verse 7”. You make your thoughts all filled.

Ephesians 6 2 Corinthians 10:5

What is described here in *Philippians 4:8* is taking your thoughts captive!

What is meditation? The meaning is connected to barn-yard animals (a cow). It's how a cow keeps bringing back God's truth to his mind and chewing on it.

Psalms 1:2

What are we to think about?

Think about and Thank God

Whatever is true

Philippians 4:8a

This is talking about God's whole truth.

People in society claim to have the truth and they may have it in part but never in whole!

Jesus used the Word of God to combat Satan!

When Jesus calmed the storm did the disciples have the truth? Yes, but not the whole truth. They didn't know Jesus' ministry wasn't going to end there and then. They couldn't see past the trees and view the forest.

God assumes full responsibility to a life wholly yielded to Him.

Whatever is honorable

honorable This word is never used about a thing or object.

Only used to speak of a person or people

Philippians 3:17

Mimick the people who are Godly in your life!

Philippians 2:25-27 Paul is saying he loved this guy and if he died he would have cried his eyes out!

To often during this season some one will hurt us and we'll spend all our time thinking about what and why it happened.

Often we dwell on the one hurtful thing than the 6000 good things

Whatever is right

THANK GOD FOR WHEN RIGHT WINS OUT!

When something that could have gone wrong didn't or when justice was done!

Thank God for being in control of this.

Proverbs 15:25

Rejoice when right wins out.

When it seems like the good guy is always losing *Isaiah 61:8*

Whatever is pure

haggios used for holy/righteous

pure hagnos

cognitive cooraltive concept to haggios

pure Godliness or Christ likeness

Instead of thinking about resentment ask "How can I respond in a way that the Lord would be pleased with my response?"

When you dwell on that which is good - forgiving the other person.

Whatever is lovely

Beautiful realities

lovely only used here in the NT. We find the meaning by looking at the Septuagint. Used to describe Esther
something that gives great joy (salvation and our inheritance)

Whatever is of good report

good euphemos
a good reputation or report

What matters is not what people think of us but what God thinks of us!

Application

Corey Tenboom story - they decided to thank God for everything!

Remember God has the whole truth!