



What Honorable Thoughts Do

It's All In Your Head – Part 3

January 20, 2019 - Tim Gill

Run from anything that gives you the evil thoughts that young men often have, but stay close to anything that makes you want to do right.

2 Timothy 2:22a (TLB)

...fill your minds with those things that are good and that deserve praise: things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and honorable.

Philippians 4:8 (GNT)

Why should I focus on things that are honorable?

1. Honorable thoughts give me security in bad circumstances.

Think about the things above and not things on earth.

Colossians 3:2 (CEB)

An honorable man makes honorable plans; his honorable character gives him security.

Isaiah 32:8 (NET)

LORD, remember my suffering and my misery, my sorrow and trouble... ²¹ But I have hope when I think of this: ²² The LORD's love never ends; his mercies never stop. ²³ They are new every morning; LORD, your loyalty is great. ²⁴ I say to myself, "The LORD is mine, so I hope in him." ²⁵ The LORD is good to those who hope in him, to those who seek him. ²⁶ It is good to wait quietly for the LORD to save.

Lamentations 3:19, 21-26 (NCV)

2. Honorable thoughts change how I treat others.

- The Christian life is measured by how I treat others.

When Jesus stepped out of the boat, he saw a large crowd. His heart went out to them...

Mark 6:34a (EHV)

Honor everyone. Love the family of believers. Have respectful fear of God. Honor the emperor.

1 Peter 2:17 (CEB)

God wants me to honor...

- **God & His word**: Ecclesiastes 12:13, Proverbs 3:9, Revelation 4:11
- **My parents**: Exodus 20:12-13, Ephesians 6:2-3
- **My spouse**: Ephesians 5:3, 1 Peter 3:7-8
- **God's Family**: 1 Corinthians 12:1, Timothy 5:17, Philippians 2:29, Romans 12:10,13:7, Hebrews 13:17, 1 Thessalonians 5:12
- **Older people**: Leviticus 19:32, 1 Timothy 5:1
- **Unbelievers**: 1 Peter 3:15-16

Use your heads as you live and work among outsiders. Don't miss a trick. Make the most of every opportunity. Be gracious in your speech. The goal is to bring out the best in others in a conversation, not put them down, not cut them out.

Colossians 4:5-6 (MSG)

- **The poor**: Proverbs 14:31, 19:17
- **Immigrants**: Leviticus 19:33-34

Do not mistreat foreigners living in your country, ³⁴ but treat them just as you treat your own citizens. Love foreigners as you love yourselves, because you were foreigners one time in Egypt. I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 19:33-34 (NCV)

- **My enemies**: Matthew 5:44-47
- **Government Leaders**: Romans 13:1, 1 Peter 2:17

3. Honorable thoughts keep my focus on God's purpose.

But Jesus turned and told Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an offense to me, because you are not thinking God's thoughts but human thoughts!"

Matthew 16:23 (ISV)

- **The gospel** is the honorable thought of a believer.

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength to do his work. He considered me trustworthy and appointed me to serve him,¹³ even though I used to blaspheme the name of Christ. In my insolence, I persecuted his people. But God had mercy on me because I did it in ignorance and unbelief.¹⁴ Oh, how generous and gracious our Lord was! He filled me with the faith and love that come from Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 1:12-14 (NLT)

*This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”—and I am the worst of them all.*¹⁶ *But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life.*

1 Timothy 1:15-16 (NLT)

And so, dear brothers, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living sacrifice, holy—the kind he can accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask?

Romans 12:1 (TLB)