**YOUR RIGHTEOUS MIND**

Philippians 4:7-9 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. 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. 9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

# Opening

## Cruising the radio the other day

### I came across some non-Christian stations

#### I was struck by how many songs that I heard talked about dying – “we’re going to die on the dance floor”

#### This represents to me one glaring fact

#### This generation has lost hope

##### It’s not that they are just losing hope, it’s that they have lost it.

##### Without hope there is nothing to look forward to.

##### There is no reason to go on

#### This is why they talk about death and dying

#### It’s not just young people though

##### I heard the other day that the Rolling Stones released a new song. The title was “Doom and Gloom”

### We are facing a crisis in our culture

#### It is not an economic crisis

#### It is not a military crisis

#### It is not an educational crisis

##### These things all exist, but the crisis that I am referring to is a thought crisis

##### Simply put, people are thinking the wrong things

# Peace that passes understanding

## As Christians our thoughts need to be elevated above the rest of humanity

### I did not say that we needed to be elevated but our thoughts need to be

## We need a good dose of peace in the church

### Peace that passes understanding

#### That means that even when things are going wrong all around us, we still have the peace of God

#### When we can’t find our way out, we still have the peace of God

#### When bad news comes our way, we still have the peace of God

#### When there are disagreements in the church – we still have the peace of God

## It is the peace of God which keeps our hearts and minds

### When we do not allow the peace of God to reign in our hearts we get fearful and lustful

#### Without peace – fear takes control

##### When fear takes control then we start believing the lies of the enemy and we are defeated

#### Without peace – lust takes control

##### When you cannot be content with what you have been given – then covetousness sets in and you end up in sin

### The first sign of starting to lose out with God is that you lose the peace of God

#### I am not saying that you should be some sort of super saint that never worries or doubts

##### But when you allow those thoughts to drive out the peace of God – you are headed in the wrong direction

# Adding to peace

## Peace by itself is not enough

### For once your mind and heart has been kept through peace – you still have to discipline your mind and heart away from evil

### Pastor Cox – you can’t stop the birds from flying overheard, but you can stop them from building a nest in your hair.

#### Thoughts will come – but you don’t have to dwell on them

#### It’s when we allow a thought to take root in our mind and continue to dwell on it that we start toward the path of backsliding

### But more than just keeping us from backsliding – we need to train our thoughts after the path of Christ

## True things

### What is truth? – The word of God – fill your mind with the Bible

#### Read it, study it, memorize it, quote it, and apply it!

## Honest things

### What is honesty? – Without deception

#### Think openly and rightly and you will Live openly and rightly

## Just things

### What is just? – Fairness

#### Dealing fairly with others – regardless of race, gender, etc.

## Pure things

### What is pure? – Keeping yourself from impure things

#### Be careful what you allow into your thoughts

#### Through media, entertainment, friends,

## Lovely things

### What is lovely – compassion

#### Not being selfish or self serving

#### But looking for ways to help others – thinking about ways to be a Good Samaritan

## Good report

### What is a good report? – Faith

#### Allowing faith to arise in your heart and life

#### Whose report will you believe?

##### His report says…

## Virtue

### What is virtue? – Looking for the best in others

#### Instead of looking for faults – look for the strengths

#### Instead of repeating the gossip – give a good testimony about someone

## Praise

### What is praise? Giving God what He is worthy of

#### Let your mind dwell on all that He has done for you

##### When I think about the Lord…

## Think on these things

### This is a command

#### It is not a suggestion

#### It is something that as Christians we should strive for

##### Give no place to the devil

# Win the mind battle

## If we can get a righteous mind we cannot be defeated

### Guard your thoughts

#### Think on these things

### And if you do think on these things, then the peace of God shall be with you

#### It’s the cycle of right thinking – the peace of God causes us to think on right things – which gives us the peace of God.

### It’s when we lose the battle of the mind, that we don’t live up to our potential in Christ

#### But more than that – when we lose the mind battle we end up in sin

##### Sin doesn’t happen overnight – it happens after a thought has come in and we let it take root in our mind

James 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

### Win the battle of the mind, and you will defeat the devil every time!