

(Philippians 4:8-9, NIV84)

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me-put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

With all the bad news and distressful things we can fill our minds with these days, someone made the suggestion that if you want to improve your outlook on life and not be filled with so much anger and anxiety, just do one simple thing: turn off cable news. Just tune out and ignore the constant steam of negative input.

I'll suggest one better: turn off cable news and turn to God's word.

Meditate for a while on what our gracious Lord tells us in His word-think about such things-and just see if your outlook on life doesn't majorly improve.

Then with that healthier outlook, put the Apostle Paul's example into practice in the things you do. Not only will you be blessed, you will be a blessing to those around you.

Happily starting a new week with you in Christ, Pastor Golm

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July 6

The Road to Hell Is Paved...

As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he. Proverbs 23:7

The road to hell is paved with euphemisms. The word "euphemism" may be defined as the use of a pleasant-sounding word for an ugly, frequently sinful thought. In our day it has become popular to use euphemisms especially when referring to gross sins against God's ordinance which calls for chastity. There was a time when such sins were called by names which in themselves were offensive to Christian sensibilities.

For instance, in a nationally televised show, with an audience of millions, the master of ceremonies and his guests discussed the most sordid of sins most entertainingly and at great length (evoking hilarious laughter) without the use of a single offensive word! In fact, during the past few decades the world has created a whole new vocabulary, all in delightful pastel shades, that covers the transgression of each of God's commandments.

Have we been beguiled by these euphemisms? Do we think of certain sins more lightly because the world has given them more attractive names? Remember: As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." Call sin whatever you will, it is still sin. It is still arrogant rebellion against a holy God. Thank God that we have Jesus, who died for the ugly sins to which we give pretty names.

Having been assured of his forgiveness, let us pray for spiritual wisdom so that we may always recognize sin to be sin when we see it or hear it, and let us pray for the Spirit's power to resist the stratagems of Satan, no matter how cleverly he may disguise them. To that end we Pray:

Create in me a new heart, Lord,  
That gladly I obey Thy Word  
And naught but what Thou wilt, desire;  
With such new life my soul inspire.

(Devotion from: Daily Walk With God - Meditations for Every Day, by Herman W. Gockel)