

Think of These Things First

Song Devotional Summary

By Stephen Robert Cass

Discretion is the better part of valor.

I think the Apostle Paul had it right. It comes down to managing the attitude. He wrote down a list of thought positions in the Book of Philippians chapter 4 beginning in verse 8:

*⁸“Finally, brothers and sisters, 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.
⁹Whatever 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.”*

The Message version relates those passages this way:

⁸⁻⁹“Summing it all up, friends, I’d say you’ll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble,



reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse. Put into practice what you learned from me, what you heard and saw and realized. Do that, and God, who makes everything work together, will work you into his most excellent harmonies.”

How can we go wrong when we approach life and the people in it with such a noble attitude?

Ah, but my political or other enemy has wronged me, said something slanderous, or has stated a different opinion! The tendency is to then immediately lash out. I know, it's for sure tough not to seek correction or revenge.

But think how greatly you will disarm your enemy when you approach them with love and respect. It matters to God how you honor his human and physical creation. These two things are why managing the attitude are important.

It's a matter of you solving the issue rather than amplifying evil.

The wise book of Proverbs in chapter 5 gives similar advice, and begins with these words:



*¹My son, pay attention to my wisdom,
turn your ear to my words of insight,
²that you may maintain discretion
and your lips may preserve knowledge.*

Full or hungry, hands filled or empty, it's Christ who gives me strength. I pray that He helps me always manage my tongue so I and my friends can excel and enjoy the fullness of life.

Please enjoy my song, "Think of These Things First."

Prayer

Heavenly Father, how great is Your name. May Your kingdom come to earth. Lord Jesus, give me wisdom. Help me to manage my thought life so it doesn't manage me. Thank you for the full-time gift of the Holy Spirit to help pray and seek Your guidance. Thank you for the victory over sin and death so I can live my life to the full.