

Meditate on Whatever Is Noble

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Here is one of the best pieces of advice that a mental-health professional can give to people: “Focus upon the positive factors of this life.” It should come as no surprise that this concept is found in the Bible.

One verse that promotes this approach is Philippians 4:8.

Philippians 4:8—“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.”

We began a series to talk about the characteristics mentioned in this verse. Today, we will talk about things that are “noble.” (I am aware that the King James Version uses the English word *honest*, but I am using the English word *noble* as found in the New King James Version.)

Recognize negative

Before we look at this week’s characteristic, I want to remind you about a realistic approach in life—recognize negative, but dwell on positive.

■ Numbers 13:26-33—Although the other spies became preoccupied with the negative factors, Joshua and Caleb recognized the challenges and focused upon God’s promises.

■ Luke 14:26-33—The Son of God’s instruction to count the cost includes recognizing the challenges and focusing upon God’s promises.

Greek word in Philippians 4:8

Let’s notice the Greek word used in Philippians 4:8.

■ *Semnos* (No. 4586 in *Strong’s Concordance*) is the Greek adjective in Philippians 4:8 translated as “honest” in the King James Version and as “noble” in the New King James Version. It is used four times in the New Testament.

Philippians 4:8—“. . . Whatever things are noble [No. 4586] . . .

The King James Version uses the English word *honest*, and the New American Standard Bible uses the English word *honorable*.

In the next three verses, the New King James Version uses the word *reverent*. The King James Version uses the English word *grave*, and the New American Standard Bible uses the English phrase *men of dignity* and English word *dignified*.

1 Timothy 3:8—“Likewise deacons must be reverent [No. 4586] . . .”

1 Timothy 3:11—“Likewise their wives must be reverent [No. 4586] . . .”

Titus 2:2—“The older men be sober, reverent [No. 4586] . . .”

■ *Semnotes* (No. 4587 in *Strong’s Concordance*) is a Greek noun that describes reverence and dignity. It is used three times in the New Testament.

1 Timothy 2:2—“[Pray] for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence [No. 4587].”

The King James Version uses the English word *honesty*, and the New American Standard Bible uses the English word *dignity*.

In the next two verses, the New King James Version uses the word *reverence*. The King James Version uses the English word *gravity*, and the New American Standard Bible uses the English words *dignity* and *dignified*.

1 Timothy 3:4—“One who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence [No. 4587].”

Titus 2:7—“In all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works, in doctrine showing integrity, reverence [No. 4587], incorruptibility.”