

Meditate on Whatever Is a Good Report

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By Dave Havir

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 “a good report.”

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.

- *Euphemos* (No. 2163 in *Strong’s Concordance*) is the Greek adjective in Philippians 4:8 translated as “good report.” It is used only here in the New Testament.

Other translations

Here are a few other examples about how *euphemos* is translated in other Bible translations.

- New American Standard Bible—"of good repute"
- James Moffatt Translation—"high-toned"
- Revised Standard Version—"gracious"
- The Berkeley Version of the New Testament—"kindly spoken"
- The New Testament: An American Translation (Edgar J. Goodspeed)—"kindly"
- Living Letters: The Paraphrased Epistles—"good things in others"

Another Greek word

When a Bible student examines the phrase *good report* in the New Testament, he notices another Greek word—*martyreo* (No. 3140 in *Strong's Concordance*). This word is translated "good reputation" or "good testimony" at least six times.

Acts 6:3—"Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business."

Acts 10:22—"And they said, 'Cornelius the centurion, a just man, one who fears God and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house, and to hear words from you.' "

Acts 22:12—"Then a certain Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good testimony with all the Jews who dwelt there."

Hebrews 11:2—"For by it the elders obtained a good testimony."

Hebrews 11:39—"And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise."

3 John 1:12—"Demetrius has a good testimony from all, and from the truth itself. And we also bear witness, and you know that our testimony is true."