

Meditate on Whatever Is Just

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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 "just."

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.

■ *Dikaios* (No. 1342 in *Strong's Concordance*) is the Greek adjective in Philippians 4:8 translated as "just." It is used 81 times in the New Testament—slightly more than half the time as "righteous" and slightly less than half the time as "just."

■ *Dikaiosyne* (No. 1343 in *Strong's Concordance*) is a Greek noun that describes "righteousness." It is used 92 times in the New Testament.

■ *Dikaioo* (No. 1344 in *Strong's Concordance*) is a Greek verb that describes "to justify." It is used 40 times in the New Testament.

Whatever is just

Here are some verses that mention the Father or Son being just.

Acts 3:14—"But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you."

Acts 7:52—"Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers."

Acts 22:14—"Then he said, 'The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth.' "

Romans 1:17—"For in it the righteousness [No. 1343] of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just [1342] shall live by faith.' "

1 John 1:9—"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Here are some verses that mention a disciple being just.

Luke 2:25—"And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him."

Luke 14:14—"And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

Acts 24:15—"I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust."

Romans 2:13—"For not the hearers of the law are just [No. 1342] in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified [No. 1344]."