

Meditate on Whatever Is Pure

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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 “pure.”

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.

- *Hagnos* (No. 53 in *Strong’s Concordance*) is the Greek adjective in Philippians 4:8 translated as “pure.” It is used in seven other verses.

1 Timothy 5:22—Keep yourself pure.

James 3:17—The wisdom from above is first pure.

1 John 3:3—Everyone who has hope in God purifies himself, just as He is pure.

2 Corinthians 11:2—Paul used the metaphor of presenting disciples as chaste (No. 53) virgins to Christ.

Titus 2:5—Older women were expected to teach younger women to be chaste (No. 53).

1 Peter 3:2—Husbands observe their wives' chaste (No. 53) conduct.

2 Corinthians 7:11—In all things you proved yourself to be clear (No. 53) in this matter.

Variations of Greek word

Here are variations of the Greek work *hagnos* in the New Testament.

■ *Hagnizo* (No. 48 in *Strong's Concordance*) is a verb used seven times. Those verses are John 11:55; Acts 21:24; Acts 21:26; Acts 24:18; James 4:8; 1 Peter 1:22; and 1 John 3:3.

■ *Hagneia* (No. 47 in *Strong's Concordance*) is a noun used two times. Those verses are 1 Timothy 4:12 and 1 Timothy 5:2.

■ *Hagnismos* (No. 49 in *Strong's Concordance*) is a noun used one time. That verse is Acts 21:26.

■ *Hagnotes* (No. 54 in *Strong's Concordance*) is a noun used one time. That verse is 2 Corinthians 6:6.

Another Greek word

When a Bible student examines the word *pure* in the New Testament, he notices another Greek word—*katharos* (No. 2513 in *Strong's Concordance*). This word is translated as "pure" 17 times. Following are two examples.

Matthew 5:8—"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

Titus 1:15—"To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled."