



Series: ðWholesome Thinkingð

Study #4

Whatever Things Are True

“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true . . . think on these things” (Philippians 4:8)

The Hill School in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, located about 35 miles northwest of Philadelphia, was founded in 1851 as The Family Boarding School. A preparatory boarding school for boys and girls, the Hill School provides students with an outstanding liberal arts education designed to prepare them for excellence in college, careers, and life. The School’s motto, ðWhatever things are true,ð reinforces the Honor Code and its expectations that students will develop leadership skills and show personal responsibility and courtesy for others.

It is certain that everyone who has walked, or will walk, through the doorway of the Hill School chapel, over which the words, ðWhatever things are true,ð are engraved, has not known the essence of the motto. And, it is sure that all who have read these words in the archway of the book of Philippians have not walked in the light of this truth. Yet, by the grace of God, may the reality of this admonition, which is written in the Bible, be written over our hearts and lives.

The concept set forth in the phrase, ðwhatever things are true,ð is ðthat which can be trusted.ð W. E. Vine gives the meaning of the word ðtrueð as ðtrue to fact,ð or ðtruthful.ð Those things that are ðtrue,ð then, would be those things that are ðgenuine, or sincere.ð Believing that ðAll Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable . . . ð (2 Tim. 3:16), a closer study of this term will therefore certainly benefit all of us.

Wholesome thinking involves thinking on what is true, not what is incorrect! Mark Twain, the American humorist, well said, ðA lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes.ð It is not strange that the heart, which ðis deceitful above all things, and desperately wickedð (Jer. 17:9), loves to entertain that which is not true to fact. To dwell on what is false takes away from what is true in one’s own life. It promotes error, pretense and hypocrisy.

Wholesome thinking involves thinking on what is true, not what is inflated! It is easy to think on what is less than the truth, what is incorrect or wrong. But, it is just as easy to think on what is more than the truth, what is inflated or magnified. The heart has the capacity to embellish what is true, add to it, and then justify the bloated thoughts. Again, to lodge these oversized thoughts in the heart only makes one a dwarf in life and practice.

Wholesome thinking involves thinking on what is true, not what is imaginary! A constant battle in the heart and mind involves thoughts that are fictitious. The made-up ideas about what others are thinking, the unreal, dreamlike anticipations that will never develop, the fanciful so-called logic that makes conclusions that do not even have beginnings, are all enemies of the truth. We must contemplate the truths of scripture and trust the Spirit of truth to apply them in our hearts and in our experience. God grant it to be so!