



Series: ðWholesome Thinkingö

Study #5

Whatever Things Are Honest

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

At least seven historical facts are attached to the Joseph of Christø concluding ministry. (1) Joseph was from Arimathaea (see John 19:38). (2) Joseph was a rich man (see Matt. 27:57). (3) Joseph was a secret disciple until Christø death, burial and resurrection (see John 19:38). (4) Joseph pled with Pilate for Christø body (see John 19:38). (5) Joseph took the body down from the cross (see John 19:38). (6) Joseph, with Nicodemus, prepared Christø body for burial (see John 19:40). (7) Joseph made his ðnew sepulcherö available for Christø burial (John 19:41).

It might surprise some to learn from another New Testament text that Joseph was also referred to as one who was ðhonorable ö (Mark 15:43). The term ðhonorable,ö which means ðcomely,ö or ðrespectable,ö is very similar to the term, ðhonest,ö in our text. It also relates that which is ðhonorable, venerable, or respectful.ö In fact, the text might be read, ðFinally, brethren, whatsoever things are honorable . . . think on these things.ö

Magnifying its serious nature, A. T. Robertson explained that this ðold wordö finds its origin in another Greek term meaning ðto worship, revere.ö Also accentuating the soberness of the term, Handley Moule commented, ðIt points to serious purposes, and to self-respect; no small matter in Christianity.ö Therefore, we are called upon to go beyond the trivial realms of life in the world of our thinking.

Through the strength of Christ, we can think on things that are noble! To only muse on surface matters will certainly hinder the upward motion of oneø Christian experience. As the noble and the sublime are contemplated, however, an upward swing in faith is known. This is setting our affection ðon things above, not on things on the earthö (Col. 3:2). And thinking upon honorable things will produce an honorable life.

Through the strength of Christ, we can think on things that are notable! Significant matters matter! One way we can think upon that which is notable or significant is to reflect upon divine realities, to be occupied with the goodness of God, the grace of God, and the government of God. With Mary, who ðponderedö all the revelations concerning the Christ-child ðin her heartö (Luke 2:19), may we ponder upon significant matters.

Through the strength of Christ, we can think on things that are needed! The honorable and noble, the significant and notable, the spiritual and the divine, is always needed or required. The Christian life is not really the Christian life unless these qualities are absorbed in the heart and spirit, and then manifested in life and practice. We look to Christ, therefore, to supply what is needed and required in our hearts.