

Prayer

Your Life Group, and all of the others meeting this week, are the prayer meetings of our church. How cool is that!
Please spend time praying for each other and our church.

Pray for opportunities to share the hope of Christ with others.

Each other:

Church

- *Volunteers for youth ministry and Round Up*
- *Pastors, Staff and Leadership*
- *Stampede and Round Up*
- *God to provide the financial resources we need.*
- *Life Groups meeting around the area this week*



Think About These Things
Bob Kennedy April 30, 2017

Getting Started

Ok, we have all had this happen. Someone buys something, say a red Prius. Soon afterward they start seeing red Prius' everywhere. There wasn't an explosion of red Prius sales, they were just noticing them because they were thinking about them. Can you think of a time when you started to notice something everywhere because you started thinking about it?

Walking Through the Text. Read Philippians 4:8-9

What kind of thinking is Paul telling us to do in verse 8?

The Tetris Effect teaches us that what we fill our brain with trains our brains as to what to look for and what we see in our everyday moments. Remember the hummingbird and the vulture? Why is it important then to "think about **these** things?"

This isn't the only place where Paul addresses the topic of our minds and thinking. **Read Ephesians 4:22-23; 2 Cor 4:4; 2 Cor 10:4-5; Romans 12:2.** How might these help us understand Paul's command to "think about **these** things" or that we need to think about our thinking?

This command to fill our minds with true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent or praiseworthy things is not about trying to see things that are not there, or just trying to put on a positive attitude. No! We are looking at our experience today and "calculating, reckoning and discerning" these things, so we can see what IS there. God is near, and at work in our everyday. These are all attributes of God's character. But we miss seeing them everyday because our minds are filled with other things. Take a moment and let's put this into practice. Can you identify three things that were either: true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent or praiseworthy today? Write them down and thank God for them?

Application

Think about your thinking this week. Do an inventory of what you spend your time thinking about. Then intentionally focus and think about things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent or praiseworthy. See God in them and thank God for them.