

**Philippians**  
**February 8, 2009**  
**Phil. 4:8-9**

**I. Thought Crimes**

In 1 Peter in the first chapter, we have tour of how to live the Christian life. He starts out discussing the need for growth in the Christian (faith, hope, and love). He follows this by pointing out the need for a high standard, that of God's holiness and then points out the fear of God that should be in us if we fail. Finally, Peter also points out that even if we fail, we are made with the imperishable word of God that never fails. Next, he begins a discussion of thought crimes:

**1 Peter 2:1-3**

**2:1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. NIV**

Again, Peter calls for us to be separated from this world, this time by lising some common sins of the heart to avoid. He has already stated that the primary emotion should be love.

-From Life Application commentary:

Malice: Doing evil despite the good that has been received; desire to harm.

Deceit: Deliberately tricking or misleading by lying.

Hypocrisy: Saying one thing but doing differently; playacting.

Envy: Desiring something possessed by someone else.

Slander: Destroying another's good reputation by lies, gossip, etc.

-The ultimate teacher is the Spirit. Food for the Spirit comes from the word of God:

**Luke 11:27-28**

**27 As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you." 28 He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it." (NIV)**

-When the Bible speaks of "tasting," it means that we have devoured something, and it has become part of us.

What you taste becomes part of you. Verse 2:3 alludes to this verse:

**Ps 34:8**

**Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.**

**NIV**

How is thinking wrong associated with immaturity? What does thinking correctly have to do maturity?

## II. Thinking Good Thoughts

**Phil 4:8**

**8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things.**

**NIV**

These words mean:

1. True (*alethe*): Reality, sincerity, or faithfulness.
2. Nobel (*semnos*) or honorable: Worthy of respect
3. Right (*dikaios*): Meeting God's standards of rightness
4. Pure (*hagnos*): Free from contamination or blemish
5. Lovely (*prospheiles*—used only here in the NT): Thoughts of great moral and spiritual beauty, not of evil
6. Commendable (*euphemos*) or admirable: Thoughts that recommend, give confidence in, afford approval or praise, reveal positive and constructive thinking.
7. Virtue (*arete*) or moral excellence (see 1 Peter 2:9—praises)
8. Praiseworthy (*epainos*): Laudable, worthy of praise.

It is not simply a coincidence that these eight qualities follow the promise of the “peace of God.” Having the “peace of God” enables these characteristics to be manifest in us.

How would you describe a Christian who demonstrates these characteristics? What would you have to do for others to see more of them in you?

What value is there in having these characteristics as far as personal growth?

## III. Pressing Toward the Goal, Again

**Phil 4:9**

**9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me — put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.**

**NIV**

Remember at the time that this letter was written, most of the NT had not yet been written, and most people did not have copies of what had already been written or the OT. Therefore, what Paul had taught them directly was of key importance to them. “Seen in me” is another reference to imitate or follow Paul and therefore Jesus.

Before God had talked about the “peace of God” but now he writes the “God of peace.” Is it possible to have only one of these in our life? The point is that we must trust fully in God to have the “peace of God.” Once we give ourselves and our actions over fully to Him, we can know Him more fully.

**Rom 12:1**

**12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship.**

NIV

#### **IV. Test**

We have discussed these verses before, but let's do it again.

**Phil 1:6**

**he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.**

NIV

**Phil 2:3-4**

**3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.**

NIV

**Phil 2:14-15**

**14 Do everything without complaining or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe**

NIV

**Phil 4:6-7**

**6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

NIV

What if God was already done with you? Are you glad that He has promised to work through your problems and inadequacies to show His perfections through you? What will it be like on the day that God is complete with you?

You are still a work under construction by God. In Philippians, Paul has been telling them (and us) what we need to do to conform to the way that God wants us. Your test is to list out what some of these exhortations have been.