

GOOD NEWS IN A BAD NEWS WORLD

There are very few of us who like to receive bad news. When the phone rings in the middle of the night, many of us, I'm sure, are jumping out of bed while we are jumping to conclusions. We are fearful of receiving bad news. Many evenings during supper my wife and I watch the 5 o'clock news. Most of it is bad. When we lived in Illinois, on our cable system, was a prominent Chicago station and it seemed that the entire newscast was "eaten up" with the reporting of all of the murders, rapes, and robberies in the city. If they weren't reporting political corruption in the city was materialistic destruction by fire, storm, or vandalism.

Then to make matters even worse, in closing out the program, they had a "humorous" story, which I guess was their way of being personal, kind, and light-hearted about all of the bad things they had just reported. Now this particular station is not to be blamed for all of the bad news they presented; almost every radio and television station in the land does the very same thing. The problem is that the world is very wicked. As we live here in Sentinel and watch these things happen on our TV screens, we need to remember that just because it is not happening here to that degree, that doesn't mean that the world in general is unaffected by these things as we are. Second Timothy 3:13 says, that evil men's deeds "will proceed from bad to worse." We can only expect that mankind will continue to go the way of death by transgressing the commandments of God.

Within such a world that is constantly ravaged by sin increasingly difficult to maintain our PSA (Positive Spiritual Attitude). When tragedies such as divorce, child abuse, juvenile delinquency, and financial bankruptcy "hit close to home," the strain of seeing things "work together for good" (Rom. 8:28) becomes even more difficult.

Fortunately, God's word does hold the key to help us in times of depression and trouble. The apostle Paul stated, "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is an excellence and if anything is worthy of praise, let your mind on these things" (Phil. 4:8; NASB). Sometimes we do not have the power to affect the things that happen around us, but more times than we probably want to admit, we do. Paul says that we are to focus our thinking on that which is good and pleasing. If we fill our minds with "trash" we can expect to suffer the unwanted consequences. But by filling our thoughts with good things we will begin to see good in other people, expect the best, be happier with ourselves and restore our PSA.

As we look at the list of things to dwell on, each attribute is given us from God. He is the source of all good things, the giver of every good and perfect gift (Jas. 1:17).

Just by turning the TV or radio off will not make the problems of the world go away. We must be active in the lives of others if we are to change them for good. Only when we mentally prepare ourselves to face the problems, trials, and tribulations of life with a Positive Spiritual Attitude we can begin to reap the benefits that are to be found in the godly life, that the Bible speaks of.

Until next time, memorize Philippians 4:8 and develop your PSA.