

## January 25

**Philippians 4:8 (NIV)** Finally, brothers and sisters, 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.

Lloyd had been working for the same company for 23 years. This job came very close to being his “dream job” because he enjoyed working his colleagues whom he considered friends. The job was challenging, and Lloyd liked that also. He would frequently tell people how he believed this job was a gift from God. When the economy began to worsen, talks of downsizing began to roam the halls where Lloyd was. At first, he gave them little attention, but over time the rumors began to work themselves into his heart and mind. Lloyd would find himself thinking about a future without this job. When that happened, his thoughts no longer brought him peace but anxiety. Lloyd and his friends began speculating on who might be let go and who would stay. Such talk began to weigh on them all as joy seemed to have moved out. Lloyd’s thanks to God were replaced by prayers to save him. Lloyd even thought of quitting and finding what he believed was a more stable job. After months of such talk, Lloyd’s boss addressed everyone. He had become aware of the rumors and wanted to assure them all that those rumors were not true. They were not downsizing. No one’s job was in jeopardy. Lloyd was grateful but realized that he had been focusing on something that was not true.

We have all probably found ourselves in similar situations where our thoughts turn to a problem that may never happen. When our minds wander, they usually wander until they find a “problem.” The newspapers are filled with “news” about what might happen. Millions of people are demonstrating and protesting decisions that have not been made but that might be made. When we focus on these “maybes,” our thoughts turn to what could go wrong or to what this or that person might do. Before long our future becomes an unpleasant place where praise and thanks seldom exist. Jesus tells us to capture such thoughts and submit them to Jesus. We are to dwell on WHATEVER is true or noble. We are to set our minds on what is right in God’s eyes not in man’s. We are to think of what is pure and lovely as established by Jesus. We are to think about the excellent things God has promised and about the good He has placed around us. As we said yesterday, Jesus is not an alternative fact. Jesus is the truth; therefore, thinking about Him is not ignoring the world around us. Instead, it is focusing on the world that is only possible through Jesus. As we think on these things, our attitudes will change and so will we.