

STAYING POSITIVE IN A NEGATIVE WORLD

I. We Live in a Negative World **John 16:33**

1. This negative world has many problems.
2. We are continually affected by the world's problems
 - a. Violence, war, crime, Alcohol, Drugs, Abortion, Broken homes
 - b. Hospitals, cemeteries, prisons

II. We Are Not to Be Negative People **Philippians 3:1**

1. We are to be rejoicing people
2. We are to focus on positive thoughts and praise
 - a. Things that are true, honest, just
 - b. Things that are pure, lovely, of good report

III. How Can We Stay Positive in This Negative World?

1. We Must Respond To God's Love. **Philippians 4:6, 7**
 - a. God loves us in spite of the circumstances
 - b. God's love is shown in creation
 - c. God's love is revealed in the Bible
 - d. God's love is most clearly seen at the cross
2. We Must Reprogram Our Thinking **Philippians 4:8**
 - a. We are constantly bombarded by negative messages
(news is no longer news- but a vehicle of **negative** thought and emotion) (**commentary**).
 - b. Psychological and Physical dangers of constant negative input!
 - c. The importance of **faith-building input**.
 - (1) Developing a devotional life
 - (2) Daily Bible reading and prayer
 - (3) Starting every day thankfully
 - (4) Expecting God to come through
3. We Must Recognize the Best in Others. **Philippians 4:8**
 - a. All people are imperfect
 - b. - Look for the good and Lift each other up
 - c. **Philippians 1:3**
 - (1) How could Paul say this?
 - (2) He chose to remember the positive things about them.
4. We Must Reach Out to Lost and Hurting People **Philippians 4:9**
 - a. Let's look on the fields- rather than the faults of others.
 - b. Paul's plea for the Philippians to do as he was doing
 - (1) Paul was always reaching out to the lost
 - (2) He loved souls and longed for their salvation
 - c. Winning people to Christ brings positive joy! **Psalm 126:6**

IV. Conclusion

- a. Faith in Christ Enables Us to Be Positive in This Negative World!
- b. A Positive Testimony Will Bring Other To Our Savior!