

## **Ponder These Things**

### **December 21, 2016**

Note: I have no idea at the time of this writing what will come out but I am writing by faith.

*Ponder definition:*

*\*Think about (something) carefully, especially before making a decision or reaching a conclusion.*

*Origin:*

*Middle English (in the sense appraise, judge the worth of): from Old French ponderer consider from Latin ponderare weigh, reflect on from pondus, ponder- weight.*

As I am writing this, it is three days until my 38th birthday (Saturday the 17th). My life thus far has been far from perfect yet it has been perfect at the same time. I often tell people that I do not have any regrets. Here is why I say I have no regrets. I have no regrets in my life because if I did not make the mistakes and choices I have in the past, I would not be where I currently am. Every mistake and choice I have made has led me to the Lord thus leading me to where I currently am. I am truly thankful because some of my past mistakes could have and should have killed me. However, I am here.

I do not pretend to understand why my life has been spared yet others have not been (even those that were truly innocent). I do not pretend to have the answer to "why do bad things happen to good people?". What I do know is that God knows all the answers to every burning question. He will not give every answer until He knows we are ready for them.

There was a time in my life when I rarely spoke at all. It was because I felt completely inferior and inadequate. Then there was a time when I spoke everything that came into my mind (especially against those that tried to make others feel inferior). I still have a lot of the latter within me but God and I are working on balance. I am more careful at not rushing into things than I used to be (even within the past few months).

The origin of 'ponder' is fascinating to me: to judge the worth of/to consider/to weigh. When we ponder things (think them over and meditate on them as they come to us) we are judging the worth of that thought or action and measuring their weight. How

many times do we say "My heart is heavy" because of something drastic or tragic that has happened? We are pondering the severity of the circumstance. How many times do we say "My heart is light" because we are pondering something that is joyous?

As my birthday approaches (or has passed as you are reading this), I am judging the worth of my past, present, and future actions. However, I am not judging these according to my ideals. I am judging them with how God views them. Many of them I can't even remember because God has covered them in the blood of Jesus. Others I have not yet fully surrendered (work in progress).

As we begin the Holiday festivities this weekend and come to the end of 2016, let us all ponder those things that are within our hearts; the good, the bad, and the ugly. Let us move forward with what needs to be held onto and let go of what needs to be rid of. Do not carry anymore baggage into your future that doesn't belong.

**Philippians 4:8 - Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.**

**Luke 2:19-20 - But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.**

**Romans 8:1, 28 - There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit...28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.**

Alicia R. Shipe

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=A0eAupGuL1Q>

**Source:**

**<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/us/ponder>**