

## Finding the Peace of God Philippians 4:4-9

### All Stand and Read Scripture

Philippians 4:4-9 (NASB)

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentle *spirit* be known to all men. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. <sup>9</sup> The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

### Prayer

#### INTRODUCTION:

In chapter 4 we are looking at **The Practical Application of Knowing Christ**. This morning's message is entitled Finding the Peace of God.

You will notice that verse 7 and the end of verse 9 are both talking about the ability of having the "**Peace of God**" in our lives.

Philippians 4:7 (NASB)

<sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:9b (NASB)

and the God of peace will be with you.

In order to have peace in our lives, we must first understand the kinds of peace that exist.

- Worldly Peace.  
Complete peace will never come to the world.
  - Matthew 10:34 (NASB)

- <sup>34</sup> “Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.
- Matthew 24:6-7 (NASB)
- <sup>6</sup> You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for *those things* must take place, but *that* is not yet the end. <sup>7</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.
- Spiritual Peace
    - Peace with God
      - Reconciliation
    - Peace with Others
      - Peace Making
    - Peace of God.
      - Peace in our inner self, inner harmony.

We cannot have **peace of God** until we first have **peace with God**.

The **Peace of God** flows from our **peace with God**.

The **Peace with God** has more to do with our **relationship with God**.

The **Peace of God** has to do **with trust and obedience**.

## **BODY:**

### **I. Rejoice in God's Character.**

Philippians 4:4 (NASB)

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

Let's review. What is Joy?

**Joy is NOT happiness!**

We tend to try to spend our lives trying to do things that we think will make us **HAPPY**. We pursue happiness.

The definition of **happiness** is “*A temporary feeling of pleasure based upon positive circumstances*”.

We are always seeking for positive events in our life that can make us **HAPPY**.

But, what happens when things don't go your way? What happens when you lose your job and you can no longer pay the house payments on your house? You are no longer happy.

**Happiness** is “*A temporary feeling of pleasure based upon positive circumstances*”.

Regardless of the type of happiness we seek the end result is the same. When the **positive results from those endeavors end**, happiness goes away.

Christ offers us something much better than happiness.

Christ offers us **JOY!**

The definition of **joy** is “*A persistent confidence in the character of God that transcends circumstances and leads to a sense of well-being*”.

**Joy is a mindset or an attitude.** It gives us a sense of well being because we have surrendered ourselves to God and know that He is faithful to keep His promises and will provide our needs.

**Joy is a choice, not a feeling.** We choose to have joy in our lives by our attitude and mindset because we have given God control of our lives. We can trust that our current circumstances will work out for good because we love the Lord.

**Joy** is “*A persistent confidence in the character of God that transcends circumstances and leads to a sense of well-being*”.

Remember, I told you, we cannot have **the peace of God** until we have **peace with God**.

How can we have **peace with God?**

We are told by Paul to rejoice always.

What can we rejoice in? One thing is that Christ reconciled us to God by dying on the cross for our sins.

**God created mankind through Adam to live in harmony with Him.** It is a vital part of our make-up.

**Satan initiated a war against God.** Adam, as the representative of mankind, voluntarily joined Satan in this war against God when he and Eve partook of the tree of good and evil and brought sin into the human race.

**The peace of the universe was shattered** and that Great War invades every aspect of life. Now, instead of light and joy and peace, a massive shadow rolled over all of creation.

**This shadow of sin infected everything as a cancer** eating away at a once healthy body.

We were separated from God by sin. Jesus came to offer peace with God to mankind. Because of Christ, we can enter into a new, loving relationship with God. We can have what Adam had before the Fall...and more.

**This peace did not come at zero cost**...nothing ever does. As Perfect Justice God could not simply pretend that nothing had happened. The crime of

rebellion had been committed, the war had been started, **Perfect Justice requires perfect punishment**. In order for peace to exist between God and man, someone had to take the punishment.

In order for us to have peace with God again, **Jesus** - God as a human being - **had to take the punishment for our rebellion**. He had to pay the price for our sins. The pain, suffering and work of the cross was the cost to bring an offer of peace from God to man.

Now, Jesus offers complete forgiveness to **all who will accept Him as Lord and Savior**. Our rebellion and warfare against God can be forgiven. We can have peace with God and eternal life with Him.

Romans 5:1 (NASB)

5 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

**Is this not a very good reason to rejoice in the Lord Always!**

## **II. Rest in God's Nearness.**

Philippians 4:5 (NASB)

5 Let your gentle *spirit* be known to all men. The Lord is near.

Once we have found peace with God, we can then start establishing peace with each other.

Now that Jesus has completed His primary mission of bringing peace between God and mankind, He also brings peace between all people who have accepted forgiveness from God. As we are at peace with God, we can be at peace with each other on every level.

### **Ephesians 2:14-18**

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>14</sup> For He Himself is our peace, who made both *groups* into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, <sup>15</sup> by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, *which is* the Law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, *thus* establishing peace, <sup>16</sup> and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. <sup>17</sup> AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR; <sup>18</sup> for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

**All Christians are now at peace with God and each other.** But, we know this is a process. Although we are saved and original sin is removed, we still struggle with individual sins and sometimes make war on those to whom we are

supposed to be at peace with. **Lord, please forgive us when we fail to find peace with one another!**

How did Paul tell us to find peace with one another?

**Philippians 2:3-5 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; <sup>4</sup> do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus

If our “gentle spirit” is known by all men, it is because we “**Have this attitude in ourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.**”

Before Christ’s ascension to heaven, he promised us “**Io, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**” We have the Holy Spirit within us to give us direction every moment of our Christian lives.

Once we have **peace with God** and others than we can start working on having the **peace of God** in our lives.

### **III. Replace Worry with Prayer.**

**Philippians 4:6 (NASB)**

<sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

We all tend to get anxious about circumstances in our life. What are some things we are anxious about?

- Marriage
- Finances
- Food and Clothing
- Transportation
- Job
- Work Load
- 

**Luke 12:22-30 (NASB)**

<sup>22</sup> And He said to His disciples, “For this reason I say to you, do not worry about *your life, as to what you will eat; nor for your body, as to what you will put on.*

<sup>23</sup> For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. <sup>24</sup> Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds! <sup>25</sup> And which of you by worrying can add a *single hour* to his life’s span? <sup>26</sup> If then you cannot do even a very little thing, why do you worry about other matters? <sup>27</sup> Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. <sup>28</sup> But if God so

clothes the grass in the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more *will He clothe* you? You men of little faith! <sup>29</sup> And do not seek what you will eat and what you will drink, and do not keep worrying. <sup>30</sup> For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek; but your Father knows that you need these things.

In order to overcome our anxiety, we need to **discover God** and **discover the bridge of hope** (which is through Christ Jesus).

On one side of the bridge is **anxiety**; on the other side is the **Peace of God**.

**A bridge is not helpful unless one actually crosses over it.**

### **#1 Leave our worries behind**

We will need to focus on circumstances that need to be left behind and start developing the “mind of Christ”.

### **#2 Look ahead to God's Peace**

We will need to trust God to supply all our needs and put our faith in Him.

Can we make it across?

Yes. With the Lord you can cross. It is essential that we deal with our worries now before they get worse. We only need a little hope to cross.

In one sense it will take a life time. On the other hand, you will see dramatic improvement once you put your hand in His.

Remember we will be replacing our worries with God's peace. We need to know what our goal is. The clearer the goal, the more we will be able to obtain it and not be side tracked.

### **John 14:27**

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

The peace Jesus gives is not worldly, it is spiritual. In fact it is one of the fruits of the spirit.

## **IV. Dwell on What Glorifies God.**

Philippians 4:8 (NASB)

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

We are told over and over in the scriptures to dwell or keep our minds on spiritual things. We are to meditate on the Lord.

We all meditate. Whatever it is that dominates our thoughts each day, is that thing that we meditate on. It could be the circumstances of our lives that we listed earlier, such as,

- Marriage.
- Finances.
- Food and Clothing.
- Transportation.
- Job.
- Work Load.

If it is not an attitude in ourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, then we are thinking about worldly things instead of spiritual. We are looking after ourselves instead of trusting in the Lord.

## V. Practice What Glorifies God.

Philippians 4:9 (NASB)

<sup>9</sup> The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Not only must our thoughts dwell on God, but our actions must also glorify God.

It could be unrighteous actions such as

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (NASB)

<sup>9</sup> Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

Christ was our perfect example. We are to “be like Christ”.

## **CONCLUSION:**

The Father guided Jesus into some very difficult circumstances. Jesus did not just escape them. Jesus lived under the threat of murder for at least one year. He didn't know where the funds for ministry would come from. Other disciples

around Him were dependent upon Him. People's expectation of Him was high but wrong! Jesus was betrayed. His disciples were eventually scattered.

Jesus' whole plan at the end seemed totally ruined. He died. His disciples scattered. But Jesus didn't give up or lose sleep. He became all the more determined to trust His Father. This is the pattern He sets for us in all that He did, both in His life and death.

He was not in control of His circumstances but His Father was. He trusted His Father for everything that He would meet up with.

### **Jesus didn't worry - Why?**

Some of us might feel more discouraged than strengthened by looking at Jesus' life. The reason for this is that we think He is supernatural and is able to do all things - very unlike us. This is the wrong understanding of Jesus' ministry and keeps us from wanting to be like Jesus. It certainly keeps us from being like Him!

If we take a closer look at Jesus' life, you will find Him **not changing the events but trusting God through them**. There is every bit of difference between the two. It is crucial for us to understand the model Jesus gave us. Jesus was not doing His own will but His Father's. He only could do what His Father wanted. The Father would direct Him into terrible circumstances at times, but Jesus could trust His Father to give Him everything that He needed to carry out His Father's will. This is the exact situation for our own lives if we are God's children. **Jesus is the best example for us not to worry.**

If you have never turned your life over to Christ, today could be your day of salvation. Christ wants you to start living your life for Him and passionately pursue knowing Him. Christ died for all of your sins. Sin separates us from a perfect and Holy God and prevents us from knowing Christ. Christ has promised to take away your sins.

If you have not turned your life over to Christ, I want to give you that opportunity this morning.

If you are need of prayer, or want to become recognized as a member of Greenwood Christian church, please come forward this morning as we sing the invitation hymn.

### **He is Lord.**

He is Lord. He is Lord.  
He has risen from the grave and He is Lord.  
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess  
That Jesus Christ is Lord.