

The Book of Philippians

Lesson 12

Study Notes

The Joy That Brings Peace

Foothills Baptist Bible College

Instructor: Dr. Douglas Woody

Text: Philippians 4:1-23.

Introduction: The Philippian believers were the source of Paul's _____. The dreariness of the prison would fade with his thought of the Philippian church. It filled his heart with _____ that God had used him to point them to the Lamb of God through the preaching of the Gospel of grace, and he rejoiced in the fact that they had been converted through his preaching. It is always the joy of any preacher or teacher to see the lives of their converts living lives that are pure and above reproach.

The key verse of chapter 4 is verse 4, "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice." Simply put we can have joy at any _____ and at all _____, in any circumstance and in all circumstances.

I. Peace with the Brethren.

Philippians 4:1 Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.

He called upon the Philippians to be _____ in the Lord. They would need to stand firm and hold on to their present possession and their heavenly hopes. They were tempted to defection, and standing firm is difficult when there is division and disagreement among the saints.

A. The Division between two women.

Philippians 4:2 I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord. 3 And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.

The name Euodias means "_____ journey" and Synthche means "_____ acquaintance."

We are not told why these two were at odds with each other; since they were women of prominence, leadership, and capability; obviously they were not living up to their names. The Apostle will beseech both women by name to imply _____ was on the part of both parties and he showed no partiality.

B. The Direction that was needed.

"That they be of the same mind in the Lord."

Most of the problems in the church are the result of _____. Paul exhorts these professing Christians to make the Lord the great object of their affections, and to bury all their petty differences and animosities.

C. The Desire that others might help.

Philippians 4:3 *And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.*

It is not known who this peacemaker was. A yokefellow is one who pulls well in double-harness. The word implies one who is yoked in harness with another; the two working together _____. His hope was that these would lend a hand in settling the differences.

II. Peace with the Lord.

Philippians 4:4 *Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.*

Philippians is an epistle of joy. In it the word "rejoice" is used _____ times and "joy" is used _____ times. Paul kept on rejoicing whether he was in prison or in the palace; in prosperity or in adversity; in health or in sickness. Christians can rejoice because they are living in _____ with Christ.

A. *A life of forbearance and yielding.*

Philippians 4:5 *Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.*

Moderation is graciousness, gentleness, sweet reasonableness; overlooking the _____ and _____ of others. Christians live with the reminder that the coming of the Lord is at hand.

B. *A life of prayer and thanksgiving.*

Philippians 4:6 *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

_____ has the idea of adoration, devotion and worship. _____ is a stronger term than prayer. It is the mode of prayer which especially arises from the sense of need or want. Thanksgiving is thankfulness for what God has already done and is the proper spirit in which to make new _____. By faith we can thank God for what He is going to do. Prayer represents praying in general; supplication represents prayer in particular; and request represents prayer in detail.

C. *A life with peace that passes all understanding.*

Philippians 4:7 *And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

All Christians have peace with God when we trust and accept Him as our Savior. All Christians may have the peace of God; which is the _____ tranquility of soul grounded in God's presence, God's _____ and God's power. Peace with God is dependent upon our faith, and the peace of God is dependent upon prayer. The peace of God is the antidote to _____.

The peace of God surpasses all power of human reason or comprehension. The word "keep" is a military term meaning "to _____ or garrison." So, we have a peace within, whatever outward troubles may besiege. Our minds will be guarded as a camp or castle; and would be preserved from the intrusion of anxious _____ or _____.

D. *A life that is filled with right thoughts.*

Philippians 4:8-9.

There are eight things here on which the mind may well concentrate without danger to our spiritual _____. 1. Truth: Belonging to the _____ of reality. 2. Honesty: Worthy of reverence. 3. Justice: In accordance with the loftiest conception of what is right. 4. Purity: Not mixed with elements that would debase the _____. 5. Lovely: That which inspires love and beauty. 6. Things of good report: Worth talking about, appealing. 7. Virtue: That which is seen as excellent. 8. Praise: Commendation corresponding to the moral value of the virtue.

III. Peace in All Circumstances.

A. The joy of being helped by others.

Philippians 4:10 *But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.*

The Philippians had sent a love offering and Paul's cup of joy overflowed. Their gift had brought about a sense of _____ to his heart. The Philippian believers wanted to assist Paul in whatever ways they could; however, there was no way to communicate with him and send gifts and necessities to him in prison. It was not through neglect and indifference that they had not helped Paul it was due to the fact that they _____.

B. The joy of being content.

Philippians 4:11-13.

Paul was a victor over every circumstance, not a _____ to any circumstance. He adjusted well to the will of God. A living Christ on the _____ is more than sufficient to endure the circumstances on the _____.

Where the finger of God points, the hand of God provides the way.

C. The joy of God's bookkeeping.

Philippians 4:15-18.

Paul wants it understood that his reason for rejoicing was not because of what he had received materially, but because of the fact that they would be rewarded by the God of all grace for their interest in him and the attention they had given him. Their reward would be that God would supply all their needs as well.

Philippians 4:19 *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

God's supply is not according to our deserts, but according to His mercy; not out of debt, but out of grace; not according to our emptiness, but according to His fulness; not according to our poverty, but according to His wealth.

Philippians 4:20 *Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

What more can we say than that all the glory in all things goes to God the Father!