Bible Study

**Philippians: Living with Joy**

**Chapter 4**

OUTLINE OF PHILIPPIANS

(Warren Wiersbe)

**DISCUSSION**

Chapter 4

III. THE SECURE MIND—chapter 4

A. God’s Peace—4:1–9

B. God’s Power—4:10-13

C. God’s Provision—4:14–23

Paul has entreated the Philippian church to protect the unity of the congregation.

The way to do this is through the discipline of prayer. Paul says rejoice, let your gentleness be known to all people, and be anxious for nothing.

In everything, he says, by prayer and supplication WITH thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

Remember that prayer is more than simply taking our list of wants, needs, desires to God. Prayer needs the elements of adoration, supplication, and appreciation.

The result is that the “peace of God” guards the heart and the mind. (v. 7)

The “peace of God” is a supernatural peace. This is the inward tranquility of the soul that only comes from God.

The key to all of this is what dominates our minds…

**DISCOVERY**

God’s Peace (vv. 1-9)

Peace involves the **heart** and the **mind**.

**Isaiah 26:3**

We must realize that thoughts are real and powerful, even though they cannot be seen, weighed, or measured. We must bring “into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ”.

**2 Cor. 10:5**

v. 8 *“…think on these things…”*

Spiritual stability is a result of how a person thinks.

As proper prayer is a priority, so should proper thinking be. **Romans 8:6**

“Sow a thought, reap an action.

Sow an action, reap a habit.

Sow a habit, reap a character.

Sow a character, reap a destiny!”

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Paul gives eight (8) godly virtues upon which we should focus.

* Whatever is…
  + True
    - True – reading, analyzing, and meditating on the Word of God;
      * a survey on worry that indicated that only 8 percent of the things people worried about were legitimate matters of concern! The other 92 percent were either imaginary, never happened, or involved matters over which the people had no control anyway.
      * The big lie of Satan is, “Did God really say?” Genesis 3:1
      * He is the “father of lies” John 8:44
  + Honorable
    - Honorable – think on what is heavenly, worthy of awe, adoration and praise; worthy of respect.
    - We do not focus our attention on dishonorable things and permit them to control our thoughts.
  + Right
    - Right – whatever is in harmony with God’s eternal standards as revealed in Scripture;
* Pure
  + Pure – holy, morally clean, undefiled;
* Lovely
  + Lovely – focus on what the Bible says is pleasing, attractive, and amiable before God;
* Good Report
  + Good Report – what is highly regarded or well thought of; not idle talk
    - Proverbs 14:23; 18:21; 20:19
    - Matthew 12:36-37
    - Ephesians 4:29; 5:4
    - Colossians 3:8
* Excellent
* Praiseworthy
* Excellent/Praiseworthy.

The key to godly living is godly thinking.

**Proverbs 4:23**

We cannot afford to waste our “mind power” on thoughts that tear us down or that would tear others down if these thoughts were shared.

Once again, Paul encourages the Philippians to follow his example.

*v. 9 “Just do it…”*

Notice through this series of verses, the following:

Right praying => right thinking. Right thinking => right behavior.

Paul closes this section by offering himself as an example, once again.

Do what you have…in me

* Learned
  + Paul’s Personal instruction (process)
* Received
  + Possess it for themselves
* Heard
  + Paul’s Reputation (people’s perspectives)
* Seen
  + Personal observations of Paul

We must learn the Word, receive it, hear it, and do it. “But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only” (James 1:22).

**DIRECTION**

Read Philippians 4

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