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

There is a dispute between two prominent members of the congregation, Euodia and Syntyche. (v. 2-3)

The dispute is creating division within the church (people are taking sides).

Additionally, Paul is facing the possibility of his own death. Paul has just cause to worry/be worried; yet he does not. Paul instead opens this chapter by sharing the secret to having victory over worry.

(v. 4-7)

Paul makes three things evident in verses 4-6:

* Rejoice in the LORD (v.4)
* Demonstrate gentleness (v. 5)
* Be anxious for nothing (v. 6)

Philippians 4:5 “Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.”

**DISCOVERY**

God’s Peace (vv. 1-9)

v. 6 “Be anxious for nothing…”

\*What is worry?

The Greek word translated “anxious” (careful) means “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

When we are anxious, we are unstable.

Jesus gives instruction concerning anxiety in the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew 6:25-34

\*What does Jesus say is the answer to our anxiety? “Seek first…”

Paul shows gives us the key to seeking first the Kingdom of God. *“…but in everything by* ***prayer*** *and* ***petition*** *with* ***thanksgiving****…”*

There are three words which demand our attention:

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* Prayer is the general word for making requests known to the Lord. It carries the idea of adoration, devotion, and worship.

\*What is adoration?

* Petition/Supplication is an earnest sharing of our needs and problems.

Hebrews 5:7; Luke 22:44

* Thanksgiving is expressing appreciation, giving thanks to God.

\*Paul says, “…in everything…”. Is there anything that we cannot take to God in prayer?

Have you given careful attention to the lyrics of the beloved hymn “What A Friend We Have in Jesus”?

This type of praying should be our **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**!

Talking to God about everything that concerns us and Him is the first step toward victory over worry.

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.

Rather than becoming worried, fretful, or anxious, my trust in God holds confidently to His wisdom and His power in the midst of the storms of life.

This peace transcends human intellectual powers, human analysis, human insights, and human understanding.

It is superior to human scheming, human devices, and human solutions because the source if GOD!!!

**Numbers 6:26; Isaiah 26:3; John 14:27**

This peace is protection for the heart and mind of every Christ follower. It guards us from anxiety, doubt and worry.

The Greek word used here for “guard” is a military term used of soldiers on guard duty.

Just as soldiers guard and protect a city, so God’s peace guards and protects those who place their trust in Him.

God’s all-surpassing, protective, peace is all-encompassing – heart, mind, the whole inner person.

This peace is not available through any human source. It is only experienced in Christ Jesus.

*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.

**Proverbs 23:7; Romans 8:6**

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

* Whatever is…
  + True
  + Honorable
  + Right
  + Pure
  + Lovely
  + Good Report
  + Excellent
  + Praiseworthy
* True – reading, analyzing, and meditating on the Word of God;
* Honorable – think on what is heavenly, worthy of awe, adoration and praise;
* Right – whatever is in harmony with God’s eternal standards as revealed in Scripture;
* Pure – holy, morally clean, undefiled;
* Lovely – focus on what the Bible says is pleasing, attractive, and amiable before God;
* Good Report – what is highly regarded or well thought of;
* Excellent/Praiseworthy.

**DIRECTION**

Read Philippians 4

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