

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: Philippians – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: Philippians 4:1-9 – *Be careful for nothing; the God of peace is our peace!*

Today's Message:

"Perfect Peace"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we were reminded of how our values changed at salvation; what once mattered became loss and knowing Jesus Christ became our greatest gain! And we were exhorted to press forward for God's glory forgetting those things which are behind. Today, we will learn how to live a life of **PEACE**. Life is full of challenges – conflict, anxiety, and distractions can **STEAL** our peace. There are very real consequences for neglecting these instructions. God wants to help you; this is His message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ The Text Philippians 4:1-9

A. The Call to Stability – The Christian life requires perseverance and unity.

1. Paul exhorts the believers to **STAND** fast in the Lord and work together in unity.

Problem if Neglected

Without stability, you can be swayed by emotions, circumstances, trials, and false teaching.

- **Philippians 4:1** – ...my brethren dearly beloved... so stand fast in the Lord...
- **Philippians 4:2** – I beseech... and beseech... that they be of the same mind in the Lord.
- **Philippians 4:3** – ... help those women which laboured with me in the gospel...

"Stand Fast"

- ✓ **Physically** (stand your ground), **Spiritually** (remain loyal to God), **Practically** (to persist with courage and confidence when circumstances are difficult.)

Comparing Scriptures

- ✓ **1 Corinth 15:58** – Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, UNMOVEABLE...
- ✓ **1 Corinth 16:13** – Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.
- ✓ **Galatians 5:1** – Stand fast... in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free...
- ✓ **Ephesians 6:13** – ... the whole armour of God... may be able to **withstand**... to **stand**.

Personal Application

Grow deep roots in Christ. Stay faithful when spiritual opposition comes—don't quit.

"Be like a tree"

Imagine a tree planted by a river (**Psalm 1**). In a storm, the wind blows hard, but its roots are deep. "Standing fast" is like that tree – anchored to the word of God.

B. The Cure for Anxiety – true peace comes from rejoicing in and trusting God.

2. Paul exhorts the believers to experience **PEACE** through rejoicing and prayer.

- **Philippians 4:4** – Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

"Rejoice in the Lord always..."

Is it possible to live this truth? Would God exhort us to do something that is not possible? We often rejoice in our circumstances or when things go our way. That is not what this is teaching. We ought to rejoice IN THE LORD. Jesus Christ is the object of true joy! Amen.

Problem if Neglected

Worry dominates your life; joy fades; fear, despair, discouragement, depression grow.

Isaiah 26:3

Thou wilt keep him in PERFECT PEACE, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you, **my peace I give unto you:** not as the world giveth, give I unto you. **Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

- **Philippians 4:5** – Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.
- **Philippians 4:6** – Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be known unto God.
- **Philippians 4:7** – And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, SHALL KEEP your HEARTS and MINDS through Christ Jesus.

“Rejoice”

To experience joy and gladness in a high degree; to make joyful.

“Moderation”

Calmness of mind; the state of keeping between extremes.

“Careful”

Full of care; anxious (Jesus **“TROUBLED”** ... we say **“STRESSED”**)

“Keep”

To hold; not to lose or part with; to preserve; to retain.

Example: Kids worried about the bills!

Comparing Scriptures

- ✓ **Matt 6:25-26** – ...Take no thought for your life... Are ye not much better than they?
- ✓ **1 Peter 5:7** – Casting ALL YOUR CARE upon him; for he careth for you.
- ✓ **Psalms 55:22** – Cast THY BURDEN upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee...
- ✓ **Luke 10:41** – ... Martha, Martha, **thou art careful and troubled about many things:**
- ✓ **Luke 10:42** – But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part...
- ✓ **Numbers 6:26** – The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.
- ✓ **Psalms 29:11** – The LORD will give strength... the LORD will bless his people with peace.
- ✓ **Isaiah 48:18** – O that thou hadst hearkened... **THEN had thy peace been as a river...**

Personal Application

Trust God’s promises over feelings and circumstances; turn anxiety into prayer.

C. The Commitment to Godly Living – right thinking leads to right living.

3. Paul exhorts the believers to **STOP** thinking on bad things; think on THESE things!

Problem if Neglected

Sinful and negative thinking dominates; life becomes chaotic, depressing, and worldly; peace and testimony are lost.

The Prescription

The Holy Spirit has instructed you to take control of your mind by focusing on THESE THINGS!

- **Philippians 4:8** – Finally, brethren...

whatsoever things are TRUE,
whatsoever things are HONEST,
whatsoever things are JUST,
whatsoever things are PURE,
whatsoever things are LOVELY,
whatsoever things are OF GOOD REPORT;

Factually and morally correct; reality; God’s words
 Morally upright; of noble character; value integrity
 Fair, righteous, equitable according to word of God
 Clean, morally undefiled; no corruption or immorality
 Inspires affection, admiration, goodwill; morally pleasing
 Reputable, commendable; a good testimony

IF there be any VIRTUE, and IF there be any PRAISE,

Moral excellence, goodness

...THINK ON THESE THINGS.

Things that inspire gratitude and worship of God!

- **Philippians 4:9** – Those things, which ye have both **LEARNED**, and **RECEIVED**, and **HEARD**, and **SEEN** in me, **DO**; and the God of peace shall be with you.

Comparing Scriptures

- ✓ **Psalms 119:59** – I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.
- ✓ **Joshua 1:8** – This **book of the law** shall not depart out of thy mouth... good success.
- ✓ **Romans 12:2** – ... **but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...**
- ✓ **2 Cor 10:5** – Casting down imaginations... every thought to the obedience of Christ.

“... do; and the God of peace shall be with you.”

We are talking about PERFECT PEACE today. God has promised it for all His people, and He has given us the Holy Spirit of peace to rule in our hearts daily. Will you LET Him? Will you DO this truth? Guard your thoughts; filter out impurity and negativity, memorize Scriptures, follow godly examples.