

2019 “Word of the Year” Series: “**God of Peace**”

Part 1

01/13/2019

Philippians 4:4-9 (NLT)

4“Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! 5Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon.

6Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. 7Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

8And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. 9Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.”

-All our joy must end in God; and our thoughts of God must be delightful thoughts. (Ps. 37:4; Ps. 94:19; Ps. 104:34)

Psalm 94:19 (NIV)

“When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy.”

1. God’s Peace Brings Comfort

“Consolation:” the comfort received by a person after a loss or disappointment

-There is enough in God to furnish us with a matter of joy in even the worst of circumstances on earth.

-The consideration of our Master’s approach, and our final account, should keep us from smiting our fellow-servants, support us under present sufferings, and moderate our affections to outward good. "He will take vengeance on your enemies, and reward your patience.”

-There is a care of diligence, which is our duty, and consists in a wise forecast and due concern; but there is also a care of distrust, which is our sin and folly, and which only perplexes and distracts the mind.

Matthew 6:31-34 (NIV)

“So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

2. God’s Peace Brings Contentment

-We must not only keep up regular times of prayer, but we must pray upon every particular emergency: In every thing by prayer. Grateful acknowledgments of what we have argue a right disposition of mind, and are prevailing motives for further blessings.

-The effect of this will be the peace of God residing in our hearts, [v. 7](#). The peace of God, that is, the comfortable sense of our reconciliation to God and interest in his favor, and the hope of the heavenly blessings, and enjoyment of God for eternity, which passes all understanding.

-This peace will keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus; it will keep us from sinning under our troubles, and from sinking under them; keep us calm, without discontentment, and with inward satisfaction. (Isa. 26:3).

Isaiah 26:3 (NLT)

“You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you! Trust in the Lord always, for the Lord GOD is the eternal Rock.”

3. God’s Peace Brings A Standard

-The apostle Paul would have the Christians learn any thing which was good of their heathen neighbors: "If there be any virtue, think of these things —imitate them in what is truly excellent among them, and let not them outdo you in any instance of goodness.”

We should not be ashamed to learn any good thing of bad men, or of those who don't have our advantages. Virtue has its praise, and will have. We should walk in all the ways of virtue, and abide in virtue; and then, whether our praise be from men or not, it will certainly be from and for God.

-It speaks volumes as to what we say to others when we can appeal to what they have seen in us. "Practice what you preach."

-And this is the way to have the God of peace with us —to keep close to our duty to him. The Lord is with us while we are with him.