

Philippians 4 – 20 November 2022

“The Pathway To Peace”

Introduction

*Remember this is 1 of 4 Prison letters written late in Paul’s life circa 61AD

*From Chap 1 we’ve seen that all Paul’s interested in at this stage of his life is:

*#1 – *Fellowship with believers*

*#2 – *Advancing the Gospel*

*Chap 2 was an intense look at having the humility of Jesus Christ

*Chap 3 is the past, present & future reasons for joy

*If Chap 4 was summed up in one word it’s PEACE

*The man is sitting in prison teaching about peace!

***So, here’s 3 ways that we should be experiencing the peace of God ruling in our lives**

1st way to have peace is to be calm in your frame (Vs 1-9)

Read Vs 1

1. He loves them deeply
2. Read I Thes 2:19 – They are the fulfillment of his very purpose in life
3. They're right where they need to be, just stay

Read Vs 2

1. Find unity in all by having the mind of Christ
2. Peace isn't found in avoidance, but in reconciliation

Read Vs 3

1. Continue to help others in labor of the Gospel
2. Both David in Psm 69 & John the Revelator talk of this Book of Life – God knows who are His

Read Vs 4

1. When we focus on Jesus, there is joy; when we focus on life under the sun, it's underwhelming

Read Vs 5

1. Gentleness or moderation – don't be pushing into problems that aren't ours to solve
2. We can live this way b/c the Lord is soon to come back – 'Vengeance is Mine saith the Lord'

Read Vs 6-7

1. Prov 4:23 tells us to keep our hearts with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life
2. If tempted to be anxious, pray; then God will send peace thru the renewing of our mind
3. Notice this peace transcends beyond making earthly sense into making spiritual sense

Read Vs 8

1. True positive thinking isn't name it, claim it
 - a. It's choosing to think on good things

Read Vs 9

1. Act on all the God-honoring things they've learn and seen in Paul's life
2. This is the way to peace, by being at peace with God thru an obedient lifestyle

2nd way to have peace is to be content in your finances (Vs 10-19)

Read Vs 10

1. It brings Paul joy to know that they're thinking about him even to the point of action
 - a. Action? Epaphroditus brought Paul money
 - b. They just didn't have this chance sooner

Read Vs 11

1. Paul didn't rejoice when he received the money b/c he needed the money
 - a. He rejoiced b/c they were mindful of him

Read Vs 12-13

1. Paul learned contentment thru experiences of having a lot and of having very little
 - a. Having much isn't sign of being in God's will
2. The joy of abundance doesn't come from having an abundance of *earthly resources*, but from having an abundance of *heavenly resources*

Read Vs 14

1. It's the Lord strength that we need and He very often chooses to strengthen us thru His people
2. Money is one of the most tangible places to demonstrate that we're a people of faith

Read Vs 15-16

1. They have once and again continued to provide the Lord's strength to him thru their giving
2. Beyond what was even expected, b/c it was in their heart and soul to give and help

Read Vs 17-18

1. Paul is more grateful for the giver's attitude that they have than even the gift itself
2. Having a giver's attitude shows spiritual growth & character – God loves a cheerful giver!
3. Their sacrificial giving to Paul was seen as an act of sacrifice & worship in the temple of God

Read Vs 19

1. He had to say this b/c they weren't giving from a position of abundance but from poverty
 - a. Turn to II Cor 8:1-5
 - b. In buying the Temple Mount, David refused to take it for free.
 - i. David wouldn't offer to God something that cost him nothing
 - c. This is giving from love and faith
2. The church that gives to missionaries will have its own needs met

3rd way to have peace is to be confident in your family (Vs 20-23)

Read Vs 20

1. To God our Father be the glory
 - a. Continually ascribe to God value and worth
 - b. This isn't an unthinking expression but an intentional ask

2. “Our Father” – We have relationship with Him as a son to a good father
3. “Amen” is added from the Hebrew as a mark of confidence “*so be it*”

Read Vs 21-22

1. ‘Caesar’s household’ would be those of Caesar Nero’s court
 - a. By this we know Paul’s ministry hadn’t stopped but was continuing to thrive
2. Treat all Christians as brothers and sisters, just as all the Christians with Paul embrace them

Read Vs 23

1. God’s grace is God’s gift to them
 - a. Turn to Luk 11:9-13
 - b. This is God’s help, gifting & empowerment of the Holy Spirit given to them
2. Even ending this letter from prison with the confidence of “*Amen*”

Conclusion

So as blood-bought saints of the living God, how do we live in a place of peace?

1. **Be calm in our frame**

- a. React w/ peace trying to help situations
- b. Be renewed in your mind thinking on good

2. **Be content in our finances**

- a. Money won't change our spiritual effectiveness or eternal standing one degree...but faith will

3. **Be confident in our family**

- a. Go deeper, God is Creator/Savior/Father

*If you don't know what it is to have peace w/ God, come to the cross in repentance and faith today

*CS Lewis said, "God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, b/c it is not there. There is no such thing." (joy not happiness)

*Jesus is the pathway to peace, & Isaiah 9:6 says that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Do you know Him?