



## Sermon Text: Philippians 4:4-7

Sermon Date: May 14, 2017

This Sunday we saw Paul press home the importance of three gospel-shaped priorities Christians must pursue.

### THE GOSPEL-SHAPED PRIORITY OF CONTINUAL JOY

Verse 4 says, “*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.*” Pastor Justin emphasized two aspects of this first priority.

1. **The GROUNDS of our rejoicing** – “*in the Lord.*” Paul isn’t calling us to have joy in our circumstances, but joy above our circumstances. God is the grounds of our rejoicing. In the Lord we have an endless supply of reasons to rejoice. Think of what God *has done* for you (forgiveness, the gift of the Holy Spirit, adoption into God’s family). Think of what God *is doing* for you (always with you, working for your good in all circumstances, new mercies every morning). Think of what God *will do* for you (eternal life of incomprehensible happiness). These are but a few of the grounds of our rejoicing.
2. **The TIME of our rejoicing** – “*always.*” Since the Lord is unchanging, our rejoicing is unending. Even in the sorrows of a fallen world, we can (we must!) still rejoice in the Lord.

### THE GOSPEL-SHAPED PRIORITY OF EVIDENT GENTLENESS

In verse 5 Paul says, “*Let your reasonableness [gentleness] be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand.*” In the face of injustice and persecution, Paul wants them to be known for gentleness. This was the example of Christ who did not retaliate but prayed for the forgiveness of his murderers. When we are gentle in the face of injustice, the world can see Christ in us. Yet the Greek term also carries the understanding of reasonableness, having a clear self-effacing understanding of ourselves. We should be known to everyone for setting aside our rights for the good of others.

### THE GOSPEL-SHAPED PRIORITY OF UNEXPLAINABLE PEACE

We saw this in verses 6-7. At this point we slowed down to really taste each piece of these two verses.

1. **The COMMAND** – “*Don’t be anxious...*” This isn’t a suggestion, but a command. This means anxiety is a sin! We must see it as such. It is to lose sight of God in our circumstance. It is unbelief.
2. **The EXTENT** – “*... about anything.*” There are no exclusion clauses. We are commanded not to be anxious about anything in our lives.
3. **The ANTIDOTE** – “*but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*” Constant prayer is the antidote to anxiety. We are commanded to cast all of our cares on God because He cares for us. Take your anxieties and lay them before Him one-by-one.
4. **The PROMISE** – “*And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*” When we bring our anxieties before God, He promises that His unexplainable peace will guard us. Our problems may not go away, but His peace will patrol our hearts and minds, protecting us from anxiety.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you from the sermon and the biblical text from this Sunday?
2. How can you regularly remind your heart of the many reasons you have to rejoice in the Lord?
3. Do you believe that God *really* cares about ALL of your anxieties? If not, why do you doubt?