

Scripture Readings: Exodus 20:1-17 and Philipians 4

Singings: 421:1, 3 – 140:1 – 64:1-3 – 6:1, 4-6 – 100:1-4

THE GUARD OF PEACE

I. What is this guard? II. How do you obtain this guard?

I. WHAT IS THIS GUARD OF PEACE?

A. Guard' defined

1. a keeper of the heart and mind
 - a. our hearts and minds aren't what they used to be (Gen. 6:5)
 - b. distress and trials can often multiply thoughts (Ps. 73, 77; 94:19)
 - c. sharing may give relief but doesn't guard

B. Paul calls this guard **the *Peace of God***

1. Being *of God* means it is nothing human
 - a. it flows from God Himself (Job 34:29; Ps. 29:11)
 - b. it exists in God Himself (Ps. 2:1-4)

2. this peace stands guard in Paul's heart
 - a. his witness of peacefulness: vs. 9, 11-13

3. *peace passes all understanding*

C. Peace of God is *through Christ Jesus*

1. What a thought: Christ Jesus standing guard at our heart!
The Lord is a sun and shield: He will give grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly. Ps. 84:11

D. Fruit of this peace of God standing guard: *joy –contentment*

1. Philipians is the letter of joy
2. Biblical joy is not defined by *circumstances that hold you*

II. How to obtain this guard of peace of God?

A. Paul connect the presence of this peace through '*and*' (vs. 7, 9b)

1. Foundation of this *peace of God* is defined in Phil 3; Romans 5:1
 - a. there is no peace when you live in unbelief of Gospel message

b. Jesus has come to you to *preach peace to us all* (Eph. 2:17)

2. Seeking the *peace of God* outside faith in Jesus Christ, will end in failure

B. Yet Paul gives clear direction how to *keep* this sweet guard of peace!

1. to always rejoice in the Lord (vs. 4)

a. sounds so unreasonable when you suffer!

b. what we are to rejoice: *in the LORD*: Phil. 1:12-13; Rom. 8:28

c. why we have reason to rejoice always: *The Lord is at hand* (5b)

2. to take every issue that *worries – weakens – wearies* to God's throne

a. instead of self-talk do God-talk (prayer - Psalms)

b. resist worry (6a; 1 Peter 3:12)

c. be specific in your prayers (6b)

d. don't forget to thank the Lord (6b; Eph. 5:20)

3. guard your thoughts (vs. 8)

a. negative thinking is toxic

b. use Paul's filter

4. pursue right activities (vs. 9; John 13:17)

5. heed Jesus warning and trust His promise as you face needs

a. John 15:4 *Without Me ye can do nothing*

b. Phil. 4:13 *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me*

Thou wilt keep in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee:

because he trusteth in thee.

Trust ye in the Lord forever:

for in the LORD Jehovah is everlasting strength.

Is. 26:3-4