

INTRODUCTION

1. Phil 4:4 commands emotional obedience - Ezek 24:15-18, 24.

1st: The Joy of a Good Conscience

1. Emotions are rxns to external influences God's Word more than situation.
 - i. *Joy in the Lord* - experience of salvation accomplished & applied.
 - ii. Paul's *sorrow* - Phil 2:27 [1:17, 1:30; 2:16, 17, 20; 3:2, 8, 3:18].
 - iii. People, bodily discomforts, circumstances - that pained Paul. Yet joy? An objective reality more definitive than present experiences.
2. Joy of good conscience - stability of joy *in the Lord*: union w/ Christ.
 - i. Rm 14:16-19 *righteousness, peace, joy, acceptable, approved* - conscience Rm 15:13 *joy peace w/ hope, believing*; Gal 5:22-23 *joy, peace*
 - ii. Rm 5:1 *peace w/ God* - Phil 4:7 *peace of God* - v8-9 *God of peace*.
 - iii. Rm 14:22 *happy* [blessed]. A condemning conscience robs joy

2nd: Continuously Joyful

1. Phil 4:4 - *always*: entire lifetime. But didn't Paul grieve & wasn't Jesus the *Man of sorrows*? Why do we ask these kinds of questions? Mistaking Kgdm joy as enjoyment or pleasure. Joy is the disposition of a heart joined to Jesus.
2. Joy is an aspect of salvation - an eschatological stance: *the Lord is near*.

Applic #1: Perceive the Connection Between Kingdom Joy & Conscience

1. Compromised conscience robs us of Kgdm joy.

Applic #2: Let Us Confess and Repent of Emotional Disobedience

1. Phil 3:14.