

Series: Philippines 2024
Title: Peace Which Passes Understanding
Text: Philippians 4: 4-9
Date: April 21, 2024
Place: SGBC, NJ

Subject: Peace Which Passes Understanding

The first message I ever preached in NJ, December 10, 2005, I preached from this passage.

Proposition: As the Lord enables us to set our affection on Christ above, God gives us peace that surpasses understanding. We will see what that means.

Philippians 4: 4 Rejoice in the Lord always: *and* again I say, Rejoice. 5: Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord *is* at hand. 6: Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7: And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. 8: Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things. 9: Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

Philippians 4: 4: Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.

Believers have lots of troubles in this world. The Lord Jesus said, "*In this world you shall have tribulation...*" But *we rejoice in the Lord always*, even in the trouble.

"*In the Lord*" God our Father elected us unto salvation. God chose us by grace. Oh, what reason to rejoice in the Lord alway! God the Holy Spirit quickened us and called us to faith in Christ. He has translated us from death to life in Christ, out of darkness into Christ's marvelous light. What reason to rejoice in the Lord alway! It is in the Lord that we have righteousness and strength and are complete. Therein, do we rejoice in the Lord always.

When we face trouble, even while our heart is breaking, turn your affection to Christ above and think of all the spiritual blessings God has given us in Christ. And rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice! David faced trouble all his days, But he said,

Psalm 34:1: I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. 2: My soul shall make her boast in the LORD:...

Isaiah 61: 10: I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

Philippians 4: 5: Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord *is* at hand.

This is the only time the word "*moderation*" is used in the Bible. It does not mean temperance in food and drink but patient, steadfastness, forbearance before all men. It is by trusting Christ. When trouble comes we know the Lord is ruling it and we know the Lord is at hand.

On that first trip to New Jersey, the day before, a huge snow storm hit. A plane skidded off the runway at O'Hare. The same airport I was scheduled to fly through. More ice and snow were forecast for the days following my visit. The only thing that settled my heart was knowing my Sovereign Savior is at hand ruling it all and underneath me are his everlasting arms. Whatever comes our way comes by the hand of our sovereign Savior and our sovereign Savior is always at hand—he is ever present

Psalm 46:1: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

And we know whatever the trouble, God is working it for our good.

Romans 8:28: And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

William Cowper wrote:

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.
Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never failing skill
He treasures up His bright designs
And works His sov'reign will.
Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy and shall break
In blessings on your head.
Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.
His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flow'r.
Blind unbelief is sure to err
And scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain.

Philippians 4: 6: Be careful for nothing;

It means be not overly anxious.

Brethren, God gave his only begotten Son for his people. Christ gave his life in place of his people. The Spirit of God gave us life in regeneration. God robed us in the righteousness of his Son. He gave us free justification in his Son, free redemption in his Son, eternal life in his Son. He made us holy in his Son and by forming Christ in us. God will provide all lesser things that we need throughout our lives.

Romans 8: 30: Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. 31: What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us? 32: He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Hear the promise of our Redeemer. Christ said,

Matthew 6: 25:...I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? 26: Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? 27: Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? 28: And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: 29: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30: Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, *shall he* not much more *clothe* you, O ye of little faith? 31: Therefore take no [anxious] thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32: (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33: But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added

unto you. 34: Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil thereof.

Philippians 4: 6:...but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

In everything. Whether the providence has made us happy or sad, thank God for it.

1 Thessalonians 5:18: In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

The affliction is working for us by turning us from self, from this world, to Christ above. God is turning us from the temporal to the eternal through these trials.

2 Corinthians 4: 17: For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory; 18: While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

So we not only thank God, but we also let our requests be made known unto God. Christ shed his blood and made us holy and righteous to give us boldness to approach God in the holiest of holies. Christ took flesh like unto his brethren, not only to reconcile us to God but so that he would know the feeling of our infirmities.

Hebrews 4: 15: For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are, yet* without sin. 16: Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

As we turn our affection to Christ above, rejoicing in Christ alone, patiently trusting Christ, thanking him and letting our request be known to him, what will our Savior do?

Philippians 4: 7: And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

The peace of God is certainly beyond all understanding. But that is not what it means. It means even when we cannot understand what our Lord is doing in providence, the peace God gives in our heart and mind surpasses our need to understand.

It is not God removing the trouble that is our peace. It is not God making us understand the trouble that is our peace. Christ is our Peace of heart and mind. The peace of God through Christ Jesus settles our heart and mind on Christ, so that we do not have to understand all the details of what God is doing. We have peace knowing God is doing it! We have peace knowing this is for our good. We have peace that we are secure in Christ and his finished work. Our Peace is from Christ and is Christ.

John 14:27: Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; [rejoice] I have overcome the world.

Romans 5:1: Therefore being justified, by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Philippians 4: 8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things. 9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

My grandfather used to sing to me the old Bing Crosby song. The songwriter heard this first line in a sermon.

You've got to ac-cent-tchu-ate the positive
Eliminate the negative
And latch on to the affirmative
Don't mess with Mister In-between
Spread joy up to the maximum
Bring gloom down to the minimum
Have faith or pandemonium's
Liable to walk upon the scene

This is more than just positive thinking. It is thinking on Christ and all these things in Christ. When our affection is set on Christ above we begin to think on all these things.

Concerning brethren, Paul is saying this to the two women who were at discord. This is the second time Paul has said it, "*if there be ANY virtue, and if there be ANY praise, think on these things.*"

Philippians 2: 1: If *there be* therefore ANY consolation in Christ, if ANY comfort of love, if ANY fellowship of the Spirit, if ANY bowels and mercies, 2: Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.

Grace and mercy gives brethren the benefit of the doubt. If there is any work of grace in them, if in any capacity they glory and praise the Lord alone for all salvation, then we receive one another without doubting and disputing (Rom 14). We trust that is one for whom Christ died, that is one complete in Christ, that is one in whom Christ abides. So we let our requests be known unto God. We trust one another to Christ and speak to one another of the full salvation we have in and by Christ. These are all the things Paul did. So he says you do the same.

Philippians 4: 7: And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus...9:...and the God of peace shall be with you.

Isaiah 32: 17: And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.

Isaiah 54: 10: For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee.

Amen!