

## **Subject: Finding Peace in a Troubled World – Part 2**

### **Scripture: Philippians 4:6-9**

This is the second part of the message we began last time. Peace is precious gift from God. Like any gift it has to be appreciated and enjoyed. Peace is a fruit of the Spirit, and like all fruit it has to be cultivated. Peace is something that only God can give. The world can't give you peace, and the world can't take it away.

**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; I have overcome the world.*

A message on a church sign said: "Satan's greatest weapon is our ignorance of God's Word." In Philippians 4, Paul tells us what we must do to have God's peace.

### **1. WORRY ABOUT NOTHING**

- Worry is disobedience to God, a disgrace to God, a drain of time and energy, and a detriment to our health.

### **2. PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING**

- You can pray anytime, anywhere, for anything. "Pray without ceasing." "Casting all your care on Him, for He cares for you."

### **3. GIVE THANKS FOR ALL THINGS**

Imagine three big baskets. One is a worry basket, the second is a prayer basket, and the third is a thanksgiving basket. The worry basket should be empty. The prayer basket should be full of things including all things from the worry basket. The thanksgiving basket should be full of things that God provides and even bad things that God allows. We don't thank Him just when things are good, but we give thanks because He is good.

**1 Thessalonians 5:17-18** <sup>17</sup> *Pray without ceasing.* <sup>18</sup> *In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

We can be thankful for all things because we are confident that God is working all things together for our good. God doesn't promise that all things will be good, but they all work out for 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.*

When Job lost his possessions, his children, and his health, he bowed before the Lord and said, **Job 1:21** *And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.* Job knew that the Lord was in sovereign control of every detail of his life. Even though he lost many precious things, he didn't lose God's peace.

Matthew Henry, known for his commentary on the whole Bible, was robbed and after that happened, he said he was thankful for three reasons: 1) although I was robbed, God spared my life; 2) although I was robbed, I didn't lose everything I have; and 3) I am grateful that I was robbed and not I who robbed somebody else.

#### **4. THINK ON THE BEST THINGS**

Your thoughts control your life. We must be careful and choose our thoughts like we choose our friends. The word “think” (Gk. *logizomai*, to count, reckon, calculate, take into account, reflect upon, consider, meditate). We must focus our minds on the best things. How can we overcome and get rid of bad thoughts, wrong thoughts? We need to think about good things. How can get the darkness out of a room? You can't sweep it out. You can't talk it out or wish it out. But you can replace it by turning on the light.

- Things that are true (*alethes*, real, genuine) – used of Christ's character and words
- Things that are honest (*semnos*, serious, of good character, respectable) – used to describe the dignity and gravity of the office of deacon in 1 Timothy 3.
- Things that are just (*dikaios*, conforming to God's standard, will, and character) – also translated “righteous” and related to “justify” (to be right with God)
- Things that are pure (*hagnos*, holy, chaste, innocent, undefiled)
- Things that are lovely (*prospheiles*, pleasing, lovable) – found only 1x in NT
- Things that are of good report (*euphemos*, worthy of praise, well spoken of) – only 1x in NT

These are things full of virtue (excellent things), things that inspire worship and gratitude instead of worry. Imagine that we are going out for dinner. All day long you anticipated the meal: steak, baked potato, fresh salad. We walk past the front door and head over to the garbage dumpster behind the building. You would ask where I was going and then I would say, “I'm going to eat out of the garbage.” That's what many people do with their thought life. They choose to feed their minds on the garbage of this world.

God commands us to feed our minds on spiritual things, excellent things. Where can we find things like this to think about? The Word of God that reveals who God is and what He has done. When we do this, God promises to give us His peace.

**Isaiah 26:3** *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed (focused) on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*

**Psalms 119:165** *Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.*

Frances Havergal wrote these words to a hymn, *Like a River Glorious*: “Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blessed; finding as He promised, perfect peace and rest.”

We should worry about nothing, pray about everything, give thanks for all things, and think on the best things, but Paul mentions one more thing

## **5. DO THE RIGHT THINGS**

Right thinking is good, but it must lead to right doing. Paul's life was a good model to follow. In another place he wrote: "Follow me as I follow Christ."

If we do what God commands, then we will have the peace of God.

- God's peace is *perfect peace* – It passes (surpasses, transcends) all understanding.
- God's peace is *protective peace* – It guards, protects our hearts and minds. A group of artists were commissioned to paint a picture that portrayed God's peace. Most of the paintings were lovely scenes of tranquility and calm. But the picture that got the highest praise was one that showed a few tiny birds perched in their nest in a rock shelter above the waves of a stormy sea. Peace is not the absence of problems; it is the presence of God in the midst of problems.
- God's peace is *personal peace* – It is the peace of God that is found only in Christ. It is a special peace for God's people. In verse 7, the peace of God comes to people who pray, and in verse 9, the God of peace is near to people who live a holy life.