

9-4-24 – Philippians – Week 9

Last wk. Ch. 4. Some of best known scriptures found here. 4 major pts.

NIV ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. *The Lord is near.* ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer & petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

I – Rejoice.

- We rejoice when life is good. **But Paul is in prison.** Dire conditions.
 - Rejoice has a lot to do with hope... Faith.
 - Rejoice b/c God changes things. He does the impossible.
 - Rejoice b/c God loves us... our trials become testimonies / praise
 - Rejoice b/c “the Lord is near.” We aren’t alone.
 - Let it show in our attitudes. Positive Faith! Rejoice. Happy.
 - Let it show in our gentleness & kindness to others.
 - Let it show in our words/actions. Walk the talk!

II – Don’t be Anxious.

- Paul gives us a remedy for anxious feelings... afraid of what could be
 - In all situations, by prayer & petition, w/thanksgiving... present...
 - Every situation – ALL – don’t keep the ones u think u can fix
 - The result is peace which will guard your heart & mind
 - This is peace - protects us from negativity... won’t change
 - This is peace – promotes hope... it will work out!
 - This is peace that’s calm beyond comprehension.
 - How? Give it all to God – **3 steps.**
 - **Pray.** Stop & talk to God. We usually talk to others.
 - **Petition.** Ask God for what you want.
 - **John 16:23-24** – “Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ²⁴Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.”
 - Jesus said this not once, twice... **4x that night**
 - **John 14:13-14** – “And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”
 - **John 15:7** - If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

- **John 15:16** - You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.
- **AND Matthew 7:7** - Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you.
- Pray. Petition. **Thanksgiving.**
 - Praying w/ gratitude – expecting results.
 - U live w/ Hope when u pray w/thanksgiving.
- To be complete, total picture, add 2 more Rs to this:
 - 1 - “**Remain** in me” – live life close to Jesus.
 - Not genie/bottle on a shelf.
 - 2 - **Right** motives.
 - **James 4:3** – “When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”
 - Prayer that glorifies self, answer likely: **no**. But Prayer that glorifies God, answer: **yes**.

Phil. 4 - ⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”

III - Peace of God in our lives depends on what we put in our minds.

- Focus on bad, bad attitude. Focus on your pain, hurt more.
- Focus on negativity, negative attitude.
- Focus on what’s wrong, you’ll never be happy w/what’s right
- **Fill your mind** with the **right stuff**. Excellent. Worthy of praise.
 - We’re often interested in bad acts, bad wrecks, dumb decision
 - When u dwell in chaos, your heart & mind does, too.
 - You **can’t dwell in truth & lies** at same time. Good choices!
- Don’t just think about what we know . . . **put it into practice**.
 - **James 1:25** – it’s the “active doer” & not “forgetful hearer” who is blessed.
 - Life is better when we’re engaged, active, than watching on sidelines.
 - Why do some football players transfer/portal? Play. Useful.

NLT – Phil. 4:10-19 ¹⁰ How I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again. I know you have always been concerned for me, but you didn't have the chance to help me. ¹¹ **Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have.** ¹² I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. ¹³ **For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.** ¹⁴ Even so, you have done well to share with me in my present difficulty. ¹⁵ As you know, you Philippians were the only ones who gave me financial help when I first brought you the Good News and then traveled on from Macedonia. No other church did this. ¹⁶ Even when I was in Thessalonica you sent help more than once. ¹⁷ I don't say this because I want a gift from you. Rather, **I want you to receive a reward for your kindness.** ¹⁸ At the moment I have all I need—and more! I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me with Epaphroditus. They are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that is acceptable and pleasing to God. ¹⁹ **And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches,** which have been given to us in Christ Jesus."

IV - Helping others is still rare. Not everyone does, **but all can.**

- **Reason?** **God supplies** all our needs; His riches are more than enough
 - God expects us to be **good stewards**. And a **spiritual truth** at work:
- "A generous person will be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor." – **Prov. 22:9**
- "Kindness to the poor is a loan to the LORD, and He will repay the lender." **Prov. 19:17**
- "Whoever gives just a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple—I assure you: He will never lose his reward!" – **Matt. 10:42**
- "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." – **2 Cor. 9:6**
 - Paul wants them to **receive God's reward**. . . **Blessing.**
 - Epaphroditus brought gifts... kindness...generosity. Pleases God.
- The **prisoner is generously supplied**; was never in need. Can we say same?
 - Paul understands - **contentment is not dependent on circumstances**
 "I have **learned** how to be content with whatever I have. ¹² I **know** how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have **learned** the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little."
 - We **learn** be content **b/c Jesus gives us strength**. Can do **ALL** things...
 - We often misuse this VS – God will give me the power to ... but in context, it means the strengthening power of Jesus will allow us endure any difficult circumstance.
 - A lesson we learn in times of difficulty/challenge. God opens our eyes
 - Flood... need less! These are blessings & bonuses, not needs.
 - Problems for others become our **opportunities to share**. Until his current imprisonment, Paul didn't have a need they could meet.
 - Doing for others is a **way of showing love**. Concern. Don't deprive others of blessings/rewards – or showing their love for U.