

Eagle Ridge Lake Elsinore
A Study in Philippians — June 24, 2020
Philippians 4:1-9

Read Philippians 4:1-9

- The challenge last week was to PRESS ON towards the goal, the prize, the upward call of God.
- Today, Paul begins his true conclusion to the Philippian Church, and reiterates how we are to ‘operate’ in this world.

Verse 1

1 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

- “Therefore” in connection to “stand firm” provides a bookend to where Paul began his letter.
 - **Philippians 1:27**, “Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,”
- Paul reiterates his love for the church in the first line. A confirmation of the encouragement he wrote throughout the whole letter.

Verses 2-3

2 I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. **3** Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

- Total agreement in the church is not always possible, but UNITY is!
 - If there is any time when divisiveness, arguments, disagreements, bickering, or otherwise can happen in the church, it’s now.. and it is.
 - Everyone is tired. Tired of the virus, face masks, restrictions, social unrest, politics, talking heads, what to believe, and even within the church (online vs. in-person gatherings).
 - Whatever the enemy will use to cause division, we must seek unity “to agree in the Lord”.
 - We are ALL under the Lordship of Christ.
- **QUESTION:** How is this accomplished?

- **Philippians 2:3-4**, “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

Verse 4

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

- Despite it all, we have reason to rejoice always!
- **Philippians 3:1**, “Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord...”
- “The truly godly person both *longs* for God’s presence, where one pours out his or her heart to God in joy, prayer, and thanksgiving, and *lives* in God’s presence by ‘doing’ the righteousness of God. Otherwise piety is merely religion, not devotion.” (Gordon Fee)

Verse 5

5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;

- “Reasonableness” = gentle, patient; Christlike humility [Philippians 2:5-11]
- “The Lord is at hand” = It is God’s position to right the wrongs, and He will do so when He returns.
 - We live with the intention that could happen at any moment.
 - **QUESTION:** How does that change your perspective?

Verse 6

6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

- The moment we begin to feel anxious, we need to take it to the Lord in prayer.
- “Supplication” = deeper request; ie. begging
- **Matthew 6:25-34**, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life,... And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?... O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’... Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”
- **QUESTION:** What do you do the moment you begin to feel anxious?
 - You grab those thoughts with ‘both hands’ and ring their neck!
 - **2 Corinthians 10:5**, “We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,”
 - “Tell God all that is in your heart, as one unloads one’s heart, its pleasures and its pains, to a dear friend. Tell Him your troubles, that He may comfort you; tell

Him your joys, that He may sober them; tell Him your longings, that He may purify them; tell Him your dislikes, that He may help you to conquer them; talk to Him of your temptations, that He may shield you from them; show Him the wounds of your heart, that He may heal them; lay bare your indifference to good, your depraved tastes for evil, your instability. Tell Him how self-love makes you unjust to others, how vanity tempts you to be insincere, how pride disguises you to yourself as to others.” (Francois Fenelon)

Verse 7

7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- If we are seeking to truly know the Lord, then we will come to understand that when we unload our anxiety to Him, He will not reject us. We will not frighten Him away with our “baggage”.
 - We can feel His peace knowing we’ve placed it in His hands. We can have that confidence.
- **QUESTION:** What does the peace of God guard us from?
 - Further anxiety, self-reliance to navigate an unruly world, fear, pressure, etc.
 - It’s like a young child being lifted on to the shoulders of their dad. A little scary, but a sense of security knowing he’s got you.

Verse 8

8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

- Whatever is...
 - True = valid, reliable
 - Honorable = worthy of respect
 - Just = right, upright
 - Pure = moral purity
 - Lovely = agreeable, pleasing
 - Commendable = praiseworthy for it’s high standards
- All high standards of character according to the example of Jesus and the Word of God.
- **THINK** on these things!
 - We must separate the world’s view of morality and good, and replace it with the things of God.
 - Moralistic Therapeutic Deism

Verse 9

9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

- What you think about, if in proper context with Christ, so then DO!
 - A hard hitting note to today's church.
 - "... maturity in the Christian life is not measured by what a man knows but by what he does." (Dwight J. Pentecost)

The Fab Five of Christian Living

1. Rejoice always.
2. Show patience/gentleness to all people.
3. Pray always in all circumstances.
4. Think on the things of God.
5. Practice... Get to work!

Discussion Questions

1. What did God tell you?

2. What did God teach you?

3. What is God tasking you to do?

4. Paul encourages us to "agree in the Lord". How is this accomplished?

5. How does being "reasonable" change your perspective of the world around us?

6. What should be our first inclination when we begin to worry or feel anxious?

7. What does the peace of God guard us from?