

PEACE BEYOND COMPREHENSION
Philippians 4:4-7

INTRODUCTION

- A. Give Peace a Chance.
 - 1. John Lennon wrote this anti-war song in 1969.
 - 2. Events during the 70's:
 - a. Kent State protest – 4 students killed (clash with National Guard).
 - b. The drug revolution introduced (Janis Joplin, heroin overdose).
 - c. Sexual freedom – pre-marital sex, homosexuality.
 - d. Abortion made legal in 1973.
- B. The struggle for peace today:
 - 1. Protests for racial equality.
 - 2. Challenges of COVID.
 - 3. Political chaos as election draws nearer.
 - 4. War of words – impacting our society.
- C. The writing of Philippians:
 - 1. Three-fourths of Rome burned to the ground.
 - a. Nero blames Christians and begin a cruel persecution.
 - b. Christians forced to leave Rome or be killed.
 - 2. Domitian begins persecution of Christians (81-96).
 - a. John was banished to the Island of Patmos.
 - b. Christians punished for being Christians.
 - 3. Paul writes of a “peace beyond comprehension.”

I. REJOICING IN THE LORD, vs. 4.

- A. Rejoice in the Lord Always.
 - 1. *“Keep on rejoicing in the Lord – always!”*
 - 2. No matter what?
- B. Again I will say, rejoice!
 - 1. *“Rejoice no matter what happens!”*
 - 2. The key: *“...in the Lord.”*
 - 3. A reminder of the constant in Christ.
 - a. Cannot always rejoice in the circumstances of life.
 - b. Can always rejoice in the Lord.

II. RELATING TO OTHERS, vs. 5.

- A. Can Be Seen by Others.
 - 1. Christianity is not just a religion of the heart.
 - 2. Christianity is to be seen by the world, Phil. 2:15.
- B. Gentle Spirit.
 - 1. Almost untranslatable.
 - 2. Some terms expressed in translations:
 - a. Moderation.
 - b. Forbearance.
 - c. Gentle or gentleness.
 - d. A gentle and kind attitude.
 - 3. Christlike consideration for others.
 - a. This attitude would have reconciled Euodia and Syntyche, vs. 2.
 - b. A quality necessary in the church.
 - c. A quality needed in all relationships.

- C. The Lord is Near.
 - 1. We should show this quality because we are “*in the Lord.*”
 - 2. We should also have this quality because “the Lord is near.”
 - a. The Lord is always near, Mt. 28:20.
 - b. But more the idea of the Lord’s second coming.

III. REFRAINING FROM WORRY, vs. 6.

- A. Be Anxious for Nothing.
 - 1. “*Don’t worry about anything.*” (Contemporary English Version)
 - 2. Isn’t worry an accepted part of life?
 - 3. Thinking lightly of our troubles?
 - 4. As great as your problems are, God is greater, Mt. 6:25-33.
- B. The Word “Anxious.”
 - 1. The word basically means “to care.”
 - 2. This is mostly used in a negative way, Mt. 6:34; 1 Pet. 5:7.
 - 3. The “anxious” mind is pulled this way and that, leading to feelings of frustration and helplessness.
 - 4. Eph. 4:13-14 – not tossed to and fro.

IV. REQUESTING HELP, vs. 6.

- A. How Not to Worry.
 - 1. This is not an offer of an easy fix.
 - 2. The serious business of bringing our lives before Christ.
 - 3. In everything...
- B. Terms for Prayer.
 - 1. Prayer.
 - a. Prayer toward God.
 - b. Don’t worry about anything, but pray about everything.
 - 2. Supplication.
 - a. A specific type of prayer.
 - b. It involves asking God for something (everything).
 - c. Nothing is too great for God’s power.
 - 3. Requests.
 - a. More explicit than the word supplication.
 - b. Refers to definite and precise petitions.
 - c. These should be more specific:
 - i. For ourselves and for others.
 - ii. Forgiveness for the past.
 - iii. Needs in the present.
 - iv. Guidance for the future.
 - d. **NOTE:** These are requests, not demands.
 - e. Always, “*Not My will, but Thine be done,*” Luke 22:42.
 - 4. Thanksgiving.
 - a. Thanks freely given from the heart, overflowing with gratitude.
 - b. Prayers are not to be just “wish-lists.”
 - c. They should be saturated with thanksgiving.

V. RESULT – PEACE!, vs. 7.

- A. “*And...*”
 - 1. The promises of verse 7 is tied to verses 4-6.
 - 2. Rejoice always, always demonstrate sweet reasonableness (instead of worry), you will have the peace of God.

- B. The Peace of God.
 - 1. The peace that can only be given by God, John 14:27.
 - 2. This surpasses all comprehension (above all thinking).
 - 3. Will guard your hearts and your minds.
 - a. A military term, to keep under guard.
 - b. Putting all our matters in the hand of God.
- C. What is Guarded?
 - 1. Your hearts and your minds.
 - 2. Reference to the entire inner being of a Christian.
 - 3. No matter what happens to our outer bodies, God guards the inner man, 2 Cor. 4:16.

CLOSING

- A. Promised only to those in Christ Jesus, Eph. 1:3.
- B. We enjoy God's gift of peace and protection, only when we are obedient to Him and submit to His authority.