

Philippians 4.1-9

Agree in the Lord

Turn to Ch 4 > 1500's > 500 yrs ago 1st Bibles #'d Chapters / Verses
 Rabbi's / Priests / Theologians / Archbp Canterbury all Part of Process
 1st English Language Bible divided into Chapt's & Vss GENEVA 1560
 For Paul > LETTER – Not Theological Treatise > Situational Theology
 How does Gospel work out in daily life of followers of Jesus Christ?
 Situation @ Step into ch 4 > 2 devoted, loyal Sisters in X not getting along
 Exciting moment church gathered HEAR Reading for Letter from Paul
 Founder of Church & Father of their Faith: Imprisoned for Jesus in Rome?
 Happy Memories of Fellowship / Reminders to Choose Joy in the Lord
 Shocking Moment 2 Sisters appear on Jumbotron! Heard names in Letter
 Bible book TRUTH: Honest @ Human Failings > King, Apostle, 2 Sisters

1. Relationship to Our God

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

Happiness BASED on Circumstances > Comes & Goes w Life's Changes

ALL True JOY is In the Lord > Source, Ultimate Object is in HIM

JOY not in Changing Circumstances > but in Unchanging God over Circu

If ABIDE in Jesus we'll Bear FRUIT & Remain in His JOY

John 15.7,11 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you...These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Paul repeats this Message > Command BE JOYFUL – Refuse to Grumble

Romans 5.2-4 we rejoice in hope of the glory of God...we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope

JOY in the Lord helps us Ride thru STORMS of Life: HE is IN the Boat

v 1 “stand firm thus in the Lord” Not INDIVIDUAL Command: Church...

2. Relationship to Others

1 my brothers, whom I love & long for, my joy and crown...my beloved

Paul's great FONDNESS for Philippians > Adopted Brothers in Christ

Beloved ‘whom I love’ / ‘my beloved’ > LONGS for them > YEARN

Apostle rejoices GENTILES have Full Standing in Kingdom of God – Joy & Crown

Acts 15 – Great Moment of UNITY in Church > There is ONE Gospel

Jew & Gentile > One New Humanity in X > Every Tribe, Nation, People

Next thing Luke tells Acts 15.39 “there arose a sharp disagreement (btwn Paul & Barnabas), so they separated from each other > 2 Mission Teams

“It is a sad truth that even the most committed servants of the church can end up in bitter conflict with one another”
David Chapman

v. 2 “I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord.”

Might THINK 2 women mentioned by Name in Conflict > Bad People!

Not MOST Flattering Moment > HOPE God Not Finished w Them yet!

Bible > Gracious, Merciful God come to Redeem, Restore, Renew!

3.18 Enemies of Cross / 3.19 End is Destruction

v. 2 labored side by side in Gospel / v. 3 Names in the book of Life

2 Women WERE Genuine Believers > STILL Division between Them

Paul held Both in High Esteem: “labored side by side w me in gospel”

Paul is Diplomatic: NOT get into Weeds – Not Assign Blame/ Take Sides

Founding Members?” on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together.
Acts 16.13,14

v. 3 “together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers”

v. 3 “names are in the book of life” > Citizenship in Heaven

Division in Church cannot Remain PRIVATE > Will Affect OTHERS

v. 2 “agree in the Lord” > to think the same thing

RECIPE for HARMONY “think the same thing” = AGREE in the Lord

When 2 Xtians disagree Need to Have Same Foundation Truth > Bible?

Diff btwn Authority of Bible and Interpretation of Bible

Authority: God’s Word / Standard – Interpretation: God’s Will / Command

For Centuries People did What their Family, Culture, Tribe told them to Do!
 Now this man they did not know Tells them to Follow a Crucified Man who Rose
 They had No Bible, No Jewish Culture / Tradition > Work of Holy Spirit in Them!

What Necessary to Submit Word of God? Humility: Someone Else Boss!

Secret of UNITY is Humility > Chief Cause of Division is PRIDE

Awkward Reality: We know Argument is Hurtful – Us, Church, Outsiders

MOST OFTEN > When this Happens in Church, People LEAVE Church!

Church Down the Road > Moving makes IMMATURITY

Live long Enough > Problem you Leave you will FACE AGAIN!

Philippi > First Apostolic Assembly > ONLY church in TOWN!

Warren Wiersbe. “Running away from a difficult situation rarely solves the underlying issue, because human nature and church dynamics are remarkably similar everywhere you go...God uses the challenges, conflicts, and difficult people within a local church to mature a believer's faith, patience, and character. Leaving prematurely simply hits the "reset" button, forcing you to learn the exact same lesson in a new location.”

v. 5 “Let your reasonableness be known to everyone” Read PROVERBS

Joyless Person can Never be Gentle Person > Patient, Kind, Listening

Joy comes when Your Focus NOT on Yourself – Jesus, Others, Yourself

v. 5 “the Lord is at hand” Work of Salvation FINISHED, Wait for Coming

NOW living in “Last Days” – Acts 2 Peter/Pentecost / Hebrews 1

Live Daily fully Confident Jesus is Coming > He will Judge all People

Stand in Forgiveness because He Died/Rose/Ascended/Spirit

Not Need take Justice into Own Hands > Wait on God’s Perfect Justice

v. 8 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.

Relate to OTHERS > Virtues admired by Romans, Gentiles, Not just Xtian

Sow a Thought, reap an Action / Sow an Action, reap a Habit

Sow a Habit, reap a Character / Sow a Character, reap a Destiny!

Whatever TRUE: 1 Study est only 8% what we worry about Legitimate > 92% either Imaginary,

Never Happened, No Control

Satan is LIAR – wants to Corrupt our Minds w Lies – “has God said?”

Whenever we BELIEVE a LIE – Satan takes Over

Whatever is HONEST & JUST – ‘worthy of respect and right’

Many things NOT Respectable – Things Xtians should NOT Think About

Not hide Heads in Sand – Do Not focus Attention on Dishonorable Things

“pure” in 1st C world of Impurity // 21st C world even more Impure

Constant Attacks of Sexual Temptation & Impurity

Xtian in Holy Spirit built in RADAR that Detects wrong Thoughts, Ideas

“lovely” beautiful, attractive, good report, worth talking about, appealing

Believer focuses on High & Noble Thoughts – Not Base Thots of World

“virtue” Motivates us to Do Better – Praise, Worth Commending to Others

Xtian not Waste Mind Power, Thinking thots that Tear Down: Self, Others

Psalm 19.7-9 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;

3. Relationship to Ourselves

Two Impossible Tasks: v. 4 “rejoice in the Lord always”

v. 6 “do not be anxious about anything” HOW can you DO BOTH??

v. 6 in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God

Greek ‘anxious’ = to be pulled in different directions

Hopes > Pull us One Way // Fears > Pull us Another Way

Old English word “worry” = STRANGLE

Biblically Worry = ‘wrong thinking and wrong feeling’ / Mind & Heart

Worry > Greatest THIEF of JOY > How to Conquer WORRY?

Right Praying v. 6,7 / Right Thinking v. 8 / Right Living v. 9

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

Talking to God about Everything is 1st Step Toward Victory over Worry
“peace of God” GUARDING Mind // Paul chained to Roman guards
Peace of God stands guard over Heart / Feelings & Mind / Thoughts
Not Absence of Trouble & Trials > Quiet Confidence thru them All

King Babylon ordered No Prayer offered in Nation except to him! 6.11
Daniel to room, open windows: “making petition and plea before his God”

Daniel slept Peacefully All that Night > Next to LIONS in their Den!

First Step for Secure Mind & Victory with God is PRAYER

Psalm 55.22 Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the
righteous to be moved.

“thanksgiving???” Opening Heart to God to Praise w Joy & Gratitude

Paralyzing Anxiety cannot Co-Exist w Sincere Prayer

Coming to Father thru His Son / Elder Brother / power of Holy Spirit

Enter Eternal Fellowship of Triune God NOW > We belong to HIM NOW

DEATH will Change our Location but Not our Situation: In Christ NOW!

Military Garrison // Philippi guarded by garrison of Roman soldiers

v. 1 “therefore” 3.20 Citizenship in heaven / 3.21 transform glorious body

v. 9 the God of peace will be with you.

God HIMSELF is the Peace > in Him is the Atmosphere of Heaven

Live in World full of Trouble > already Citizen of the Heavenly City

God sends Garrison of Peace to GUARD us on our Journey to Him

Joy & Peace possible NOW > Maintained by holding on to God’s Word

“In the modern world many people seek freedom from anxiety by trying to empty their minds;
Paul teaches us that true peace can be ours only when our minds are properly filled...a mind full
of what is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, or praiseworthy will leave
little room for anxiety-producing, peace-disrupting and joy-destroying thoughts”

Sinclair Ferguson

Sitting here Listening/Thinking about God’s Word invites His Peace

Psalm 83 // O God, do not keep silence; // **do not hold your peace or be still, O God!** // For behold, your enemies make an uproar; // **those who hate you have raised their heads.** // They lay crafty plans against your people; // **they consult together against your treasured ones.** // They say, “Come, let us wipe them out as a nation; // **let the name of Israel be remembered no more!**” // For they conspire with one accord; // **against you they make a covenant** — // the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, Moab and the Hagrites, Gebal and Ammon and Amalek, Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre; Asshur also has joined them; // **they are the strong arm of the children of Lot.** // Do to them as you did to Midian, as to Sisera and Jabin at the river Kishon, // **who were destroyed at En-dor, who became dung for the ground.** // Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb, all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna, // **who said, “Let us take possession for ourselves of the pastures of God.”** // O my God, make them like whirling dust, like chaff before the wind. // **As fire consumes the forest, as the flame sets the mountains ablaze,** // so may you pursue them with your tempest and terrify them with your hurricane! // **Fill their faces with shame, that they may seek your name, O Lord.** // Let them be put to shame and dismayed forever; let them perish in disgrace, // **that they may know that you alone, whose name is the Lord, are the Most High over all the earth. Amen and Amen.**