

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Philippians 4:1-9**.
- B. Ephesians is a great book about the church being the body of X, while Colossians is a great book about X as the head of that body. Sandwiched in between is Philippians--a great book about having joy in our lives because of X and the church.
- C. The "most famous" scripture is 4:4 and this morning I want to talk about being able to rejoice.
- D. Too many people endure their Xianity instead of enjoying it.

I. LIVE IN PEACE ONE WITH ANOTHER (Phil. 4:2-3).

- A. Euodia and Syntyche were two sisters in X that had helped Paul in his preaching of the gospel. They were workers for the Lord, but seemed to have trouble in getting along with each other.
I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord. 3 Indeed, true comrade, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.
- B. Satan will steal your joy in the Lord if you allow differences to go uncorrected.
- C. Learning to live in peace one with another is an important part of enjoying your Xianity. Others may not cooperate, so the scripture says "As far as it depends on you" (Rom. 12:16-18).
Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. 17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.
- D. We are to help with each others burdens, not be a burden (Gal. 6:2).
Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.
- E. We are to take the initiative in solving problems (Mt. 18:15; Mt. 5:23-24).
*(Mt 18:15) "And if your brother sins, go and reprove him in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother."
(Mt. 5:23-24) "If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your offering there before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering."*

II. BE FORBEARING BECAUSE THE LORD IS NEAR (Phil. 4:5).

- A. To be forbearing, or to have a forbearing spirit, is to show moderation (Phil 4:5).
Let your forbearing spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near.
- B. A Xian should be one who stays away from extremes.
- C. Avoiding excesses, acting with restraint and remaining under control is the lifestyle of one who is living for God.
- D. The Xian need not indulge in excesses because Jesus is coming. He is near.
- E. The Lord is near:
 - 1. In prayer.
 - 2. In His word.
 - 3. In fellowship with others (Mt. 18:20).
"For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst."
- F. As long as one who is in authority is near (such as a policeman) there is no reason to act out of character in a crisis. The Xian should never be out of proper character because the Lord is near.

III. MAKE SUPPLICATION, PRAY TO GOD (Phil. 4:6).

- A. Jesus told us the same thing that Paul is saying here, be anxious in nothing (Phil. 4:6).
Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
- B. Do not worry (excessively) about things (see Mt. 6:25-34).

- C. God is always ready to help and bless.
- D. Not using the power of prayer is like buying a chain saw and not turning it on to cut wood. (Ex.: backwoodsman joke of only cutting 4 trees a day instead of 10.)
- E. Remember these scripture verses: 2Pet. 1:3; Rom. 8:32.
 (2Pet 1:3) seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.
 (Rom 8:32) He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

IV. LET THE PEACE OF GOD RULE OUR HEARTS (Phil. 4:7-9).

- A. We can now have a calm heart because the storm at Calvary is over (Phil. 4:7-9).
 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things. 9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you.
- B. There is a little sign in my office that reads: Lord, help me to remember that nothing is going to happen today that You and I together can't handle.
- C. Let us not be afraid of the storms of life, because Jesus can calm them.
- D. Guarding our hearts and minds is the image of a soldier protecting an item of great value from theft or vandalism. If we let Him, God is guarding our hearts and minds from those things that pull us down.
- E. Remember that all of this is in X.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. A three step plan for being able to rejoice:
 1. Be forbearing (moderate in actions and speech).
 2. Be prayerful in making many supplications to God.
 3. Let your mind dwell on good things.
- B. Joy is not a giddy, "happy-go-lucky" attitude. But a deep inward knowledge that despite what the world does (the sin all around), with God's help life can be enjoyed and we can rejoice that Jesus is always near.
- C. All of this is available in X.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.