

Series: Divine Joy

“The Path to Peace”

C.R. 5-13-18

Text: Philippians 4: 1-7

Intro: As one opens the book of Philippians there can be no denying that Paul loved this church dearly. As a matter of fact, I lean toward the fact that this was Paul’s favorite church of all the ones he had a hand in. His writing indicates great love and care for them, and as we will see today he even calls out names of people that he wanted to see make it right.

If there is one thing that the enemy is a master at it is robbing God’s people of their joy and their peace. Have you noticed how on edge people are? In verse 1 of our text today Paul tells this church to stand firm. If we don’t stand firm in what we know is right, we will be robbed of our peace. We must stand fast “in the Lord”. This is the only way. If we give any ground to Satan he will press his advantage. He will send his forces through the breach in our defenses. A small skirmish can escalate into a major crisis. Does it look to you like our churches are filled with peacemakers, or trouble makers? How can we keep the peace? Let’s examine.

1) A Plea for Peace (v. 2)

- a. Women played a prominent role in the start of this church. They still do.
- b. Two of these women were having a disagreement. We are not sure what exactly it was about. (Guess a few). Verse 3 of chapter 2 might be a hint.
- c. Talk about what it must have been like when the church got together, and this letter was opened up and read.
- d. Who ever was asleep woke up when they heard names being called. One must wonder did they cut their eyes at one another, or at Epaphroditus for ratting them out.
- e. Paul makes a personal plea here for this to be fixed.
- f. A little leaven. That’s all it takes to ruin a good thing.
- g. A small disagreement can rob the peace of a family.
- h. Notice that Paul also ask for help from a “true yokefellow” or companion. We do not know exactly who this is.
- i. *We must HELP one another not HURT one another.

2) Rejoice (v.4)

- a. This is the 3rd time in this little book that we are told to rejoice. (2:18, 3:1, 4:4)
- b. Here in this verse Paul states it twice.
- c. Paul’s answer to all of life’s problems is the Lord. Rejoice in the Lord.
- d. *Phillips: Distressing thoughts are overcome by thoughts of the Lord and His love, goodness, wisdom, power, and care. The Lord is too wise to make any mistakes, too

loving to be unkind, too powerful to be thwarted, and too involved in all that concerns us to be aloof. How can we think of the Lord and not rejoice?

- e. Remember where Paul was at when he wrote this.
- f. Things are going to happen to us in this life. Crushing things, hurting things. But we do not rejoice in the things of this life we rejoice in the Lord.

3) Be Gentle (v.5)

- a. Moderation= Reasonableness, recognize your unselfishness, your forbearing spirit. The best rendering here is gentle.
- b. We are to be people that a recognized quality of our life is gentleness.
- c. Illustrate how Abraham handled Lot. "Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, for we be brethren. (Gen 13:8)
- d. Note also he states that the Lord is at Hand. He is with us now and he is coming to get us as well.
- e. There must be within the church a gentleness and a sweet reasonableness among us.
- f. This will prevent the stealing of our peace.

4) Don't Worry (v.6)

- a. Who came in worried today?
- b. Again, Paul was not lounging under a coconut tree sipping a cool drink. He was in prison, and he was saying don't worry.
- c. Said the robin to the sparrow: "I should really like to know Why these anxious human beings rush about and worry so. Said the sparrow to the robin; Friend, I think that it must be That they have no heavenly Father, Such as cares for you and me.

5) Pray (v.6)

- a. Don't worry about anything, pray about everything.
- b. Amp. (In every circumstance and in everything Pray)
- c. When worry takes over I should start Praying and my prayer should start with adoration.
- d. We come to Him which says God we acknowledge we can't but you can. We trust you, we love you. And we cast all our cares upon you for you care for us.

6) Peace (v.7)

- a. Not the worlds peace, but God's peace.
- b. It surpasses understanding. It would do me no good to explain it because we can't understand it. And I can't explain it.
- c. *Keep= to keep in custody. Kept with a garrison. A great river of peace like a moat around the heart and mind.