

Rejoice in the Lord Always

TEXT: Phil. 4:4-9

INTRODUCTION:

- A. IN THIS PASSAGE PAUL DISCUSSES ATTITUDES THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO THE CHILD OF GOD.
- B. FIRST “REJOICE IN THE LORD.” THE OTHER ATTITUDES MENTIONED WILL LEAD TO THE JOY WE SHARE.

I. “REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS.”

- A. “JOY” – THE HAPPY CONDITION OF THE SOUL.
- B. A CHRISTIAN’S JOY CAN **NEVER** BE TAKEN FROM HIM (**John 16:22**).
- C. IT IS AROUSED BY THE **HOPE OF SALVATION** (**Rom. 5:1-2**).
- D. WE ARE JOYFUL **BECAUSE OF & IN SPITE OF** SUFFERINGS (**Phil. 2:17-18; Acts 5:41; 1 Pet. 1:3-9**).

II. “LET YOUR FORBEARANCE BE KNOWN UNTO ALL MEN.”

- A. THE GREEK WORD MEANS “**GENTLENESS**.”
- B. WE ARE TO BE GENTLE **AS GOD IS GENTLE** TOWARD US (**James 3:17**).

III. “IN NOTHING BE ANXIOUS.”

- A. **ANXIETY** IS A MARK OF **WORLDLY** PEOPLE (**Matt. 6:31-32**).
- B. GOD HAS PROMISED TO CARE FOR US (**1 Pet. 5:7; Matt. 6:25-30**).
- C. ANXIETY THEN IS A SYMPTOM OF A **LACK OF TRUST IN GOD** (**Matt. 6:30; Heb. 11:6**).
- D. THE EXAMPLE OF PAUL SHOULD BE FOLLOWED (**Phil. 4:11-13**).
- E. THE **OPPOSITE** OF ANXIETY IS **PEACE** AND **CONTENTMENT** (**vs. 7; Rom. 8:31ff**).

IV. “FINALLY, BRETHERN, THINK ON THESE THINGS.”

- A. “WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE **TRUE**” – Real (**John 17:17; Psa. 1:1-2**).
- B. “**HONORABLE**” – Worthy of honor, venerable.
- C. “**JUST**,” “**RIGHTEOUS**” – State of being right or just (**Rom. 12:9; Matt. 5:6**).
- D. “**PURE**” – Pure from defilement or contamination (**Col. 3:2**).
- E. “**LOVELY**” – *pros*, toward – *phileo*, to love. Pleasing, agreeable, lends to love.
- F. “**OF GOOD REPORT**” – “Uttering sounds or words of good omen.”
Opposite of murmuring. Looking at the bright side (**1 Cor. 10-11**).
- G. “IF THERE BE ANY **VIRTUE**” – Moral excellence (**2 Pet. 1:3, 5**).
- H. “ANY **PRAISE**” – Whatever is praiseworthy.
- I. “**THINK ON THESE THINGS**” – Allow the mind to dwell, meditate. Why?
 - 1. The consequence of this kind of thinking – bring us closer to God..
 - 2. **Proverbs 23:7; Luke 6:43-45.**

V. WE ARE TO IMITATE PAUL IN HIS GOOD LIFE.

- A. PAUL WAS ANY IMITATOR OF CHRIST (**1 Cor. 11:1**).
- B. PAUL’S TEACHINGS WERE INSPIRED (**Gal. 1:11-12**).

C. GOD WILL BE WITH US (**vs. 9**).

CONCLUSION:

A. **WHAT KIND OF LIFE DO YOU LEAD?** IT REFLECTS YOUR ATTITUDE.

B. IS IT A LIFE OF **JOY** OR **MIRTH**?