

Pray for Peace

February 28, 2016

Text: Philippians 4:4-7

I. Introduction: An Incredible Promise

II. The Context: Trouble

III. The Result: The Peace of God (4:7)

IV. The Way:

- A. Rejoice Always (4:4; Habakkuk 3:17-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)
- B. Remember the Lord's Nearness (4:5; John 14:27)
- C. Fret Not... (4:6; Psalm 37:1, 7, 8)
- D. ...Rather, Pray! (4:6)
 1. In Everything
 2. With All Kinds of Prayer (Ephesians 6:18)
 3. With Thanksgiving
 4. In Faith (Isaiah 26:3)

Quotations

"You are a in a world full of trouble and anxiety, far from the heavenly city of which you are a citizen. But God sends a garrison of peace to guard you while you are away from your homeland." —Sinclair Ferguson

"If you think you can achieve lasting peace of mind by mantras or meditation, without receiving peace with your Maker through humble trust in Christ and his cross, you are self-deceived. The peace that lasts through time and into eternity is founded only in the peacemaking mission of Jesus the Son of God." —Dennis Johnson

"'Rejoicing' in the Bible is much deeper than simply being happy about something. Paul directed that we should 'rejoice in the Lord always' (Philippians 4:4), but this cannot mean 'always feel happy,' since no one can command someone to always have a particular emotion. To rejoice is to treasure a thing, to assess its value to you, to reflect on its beauty and importance until your heart rests in it and tastes the sweetness of it. 'Rejoicing' is a way of praising God until the heart is sweetened and rested, and until it relaxes its grip on anything else it thinks it needs." —Tim Keller

Reflection Questions (for personal reflection and family conversation):

1. What is the peace of God? In what ways have you experienced the peace of God?
2. What does it look like to "rejoice always"? How is this similar to and different from happiness?
3. How can you daily pray in the way you are instructed to in these verses?