

Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church

Wednesday Sermon

Date: March 18, 2020

Text: Philippians 4:5-7

Scripture Reading: Philippians 4:5-7

Subject: Be careful for nothing – and the peace of God which passes all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ.

Philippians 4:4 (KJV) *Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say,*

Rejoice. Brothers and Sisters, in spite of the present pestilence (there may be many more), we have great cause for rejoicing in the LORD. He has set his everlasting love on us. He has saved us by his mercy and given to us eternal life in believing in His only begotten Son. He has watched over us and kept us to this hour through dangers seen and unseen. We cannot say what shall come upon our path tomorrow or even this very night. It never helps us to expect the worst, but it does help us to deal factually. It is true that some of us may be afflicted with this virus. We may not be able to avoid it. As much as in us is, let us prepare ourselves to do what we can if and when we are afflicted by it. Some of us may grow very, very sick. Some of us may die. Our natural man does not like to think that we might die, but the truth is that death is sure for all of us. On the other hand, we may not be touched greatly by all this. We must go on trusting the LORD moment by moment. Truly, ours has been a "light affliction!"

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (KJV) *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

That ought to make us rejoice again and again.

Philippians 4:5 (KJV) *Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.*

Let your moderation be known unto all men, -- That is, let our moderation be such that others may see it. This does not mean that we are to make an ostentatious display of it, but that it should be such a characteristic of our lives that it would be constantly visible to others. The word *moderation* ἐπιεικεία--refers to restraint on the passions, general soberness of living, and being free from all excesses. The word properly means that which is *fit or suitable*, and then propriety, gentleness, mildness.—In moderation, we are to indulge in no excess of passion, or dress, or eating, or drinking. We are to govern our appetites, restrain our temper, and to be examples of what was proper for men in view of the expectation of the Lord's appearing.

The Lord is at hand. – I think this means that the Lord is near, he is omnipresent, and sees and observes the conduct of his people. He sees their deportment in the world, and their deportment to one another. With that in mind, knowing that he sees all and knows all, we should behave with equity, and with kindness and tenderness towards our fellow creatures and fellow Christians. Remember, let none of us avenge ourselves, for the LORD is the avenger of all wrong and He shall do it in due time.

Philippians 4:6 (KJV) *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

Be careful for nothing; -- Literally, this means “stop being anxious” about the cares and things of this present world. Look at the Lord’s words from the sermon on the mount:

Matthew 6:25-33 (KJV) *Therefore I say unto you, **Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on.** Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? **26** Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? **27** Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? **28** And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: **29** And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. **30** Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? **31** Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? **32** (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. **33** But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

It is manifestly true that some of us, perhaps all of us, have some cares that plague us because of the present situation. Let us, by the help and grace of God, stop “taking thought” and “stop being anxious and careful” about these things. The things that could come upon us may indeed come, but we don’t know that. The LORD is still at hand. Here is the recipe for peace – a peace that passes all understanding (cannot be explained or articulated).

So, stop being anxious, **but in every thing** – Notice the huge word IN. Not about everything, but IN everything. In every situation in which we find ourselves. In every time of blessing or testing. We get the idea. What do we do?

by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. – Praying and supplicating with thanksgiving. “Thank you, LORD, for supplying our every need with health, food, clothing, warmth, and abilities to work. Thank you, Lord for our jobs; for our income, because we know it is you who gives us power to get wealth. Now, we are in need. We need another job; we need to be healed; we need to be protected; and we request that you help us in all these things.” Be sure to pray. Be sure to give thanks. In every situation, every time. And as sure as we do that, what happens?

Philippians 4:7 (KJV) And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, --
Let me stop right here. This has been, for Jan and I, again and again the source of peace in the midst of a sore trial, heartache, threat, and genuine need. It is the peace which God gives. The peace here particularly referred to is that which is felt when we have no anxious care about the supply of our wants, and when we go confidently and commit everything into the hands of God. That peace passes all understanding. It cannot be explained to the unbelieving world. It is inexplicable. It is a peace nowhere else known. But it is there in our hearts and mind for real.

Shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. --
That is, shall keep them from anxiety and agitation. The idea is, that by thus making our requests known to God, and going to him

in view of all our trials and wants, the mind would be preserved from distressing anxiety. The way to find peace, and to have the heart kept from trouble, is thus to go and spread out all before the Lord. This is done through Christ Jesus. It is only in him that the mind can be preserved in peace. It is not by mere confidence in God, or by mere prayer, but it is by confidence in God as he is revealed through the Redeemer, and by faith in him.