

February 8, 1981

THE PEACE OF GOD

Philippians, Chapter 4, is an Epistle written by the Apostle Paul to the saints of the city of Macedonia. ~~where he had been privileged to lead (on his second missionary journey)~~ several to Christ, which resulted in a local church which had a concern for Paul; and in fact, this was the only assembly, according to Paul's own testimony, that thought of him, communicated with him, or gave him gifts in their effort to sustain him ~~an~~ help him in his ministry.

He wrote this letter back by way of appreciation. No doubt, it was by the hand of the one who came to bring him the gifts. His name was Epaphroditus. Epaphroditus almost died while there with Paul; but Paul mentions, "The Lord had mercy upon him, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow." ~~and God spared Epaphroditus.~~

^{the Philippians}
Paul seeks to warn them in this letter concerning things that constantly plague any and every believer, and he pinpoints a specific problem that apparently was related to him by Epaphroditus concerning two women. This is set forth in the opening verses of chapter 4 in Philippians. Euodias and Syntyche--two gals who had two life styles that were totally opposite. Of course, it is those little idiosyncrasies that irritate and get under the skin of a believer or an unbeliever. Oft times it's the little things that irritate us more than the big things, because we are prone to "strain at a knat and swallow a camel." But anyway, there was conflict here. Strange, because when we do have conflicts with others it is because of the fact that someone has done something or said something or operates in a certain way that bothers us, but if we talk to another person we do not know, who may have done something far worse than someone else the day before, we do not mentally hold this against them by virtue of the fact that this wasn't done

against me. So consequently, we don't see as God sees, which is the way we ought to see. We don't extend grace as God extends grace, which is the way we ought to extend grace. We usually extend grace in the face of how things appear to be to us, and how people respond to us. This guy may have shot three other people yesterday, but by virtue of the fact that I never liked those people anyway, and he didn't shoot me, why we can have a wonderful conversation today, and there is no mental block there at all.

February 8, 1981 a.m.

"THE PEACE OF GOD WHICH PASSETH ALL UNDERSTANDING"

We're going to look at verses five through seven of Philippians chapter four. To begin with, we will just make a few comments on the ~~verses~~, exegete the passage, look at the words, look at the doctrines; and then, we'll look at the practical application of this to our daily life.

Verse 5: "Let your moderation be known unto all men." Now the word "moderation" could be translated "unselfish consideration." "Let your life exemplify the grace of God before all men; for the Lord is at hand." "Lord is at hand" is another reference made by the Apostle Paul concerning Christ's imminent return, the Rapture. Jesus may come today.

Verse 6: "Be careful for nothing." Now, if you would see a sign today, "Be Careful!"; or if it would have been posted ahead of the stairs, you would have taken caution, because when you see the word "careful" today, it means "Excercise caution." But three hundred years ago that was not true; ^C that was not what it meant. The word "careful" meant "full of care." A synonym for that would be "full of anxiety" or "worry." The American Standard Version says, "Don't have any anxiety about anything." The Amplified New Testament says, "Don't fret or have any anxiety about anything." So, we can simply translate it, "Don't worry about anything!" "Anything" is literally every one thing. ~~*~~Don't worry about anything.~~*~~

We have a recourse, and that is prayer. "Don't worry about anything, but in every thing by prayer let your requests be made known unto God; and the peace of God, which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." ~~We look at the~~ word "prayer." Prayer, of course, is the privilege for a child of God.

Thus, the word supplication* is used, and the word "supplicating*" means "to ~~supplicate~~^{define} for one's personal needs." We have the word requests, and that merely emphasizes or amplifies the word supplication*, because it speaks of the object of which you make a request. Thus, as we think of doing business in the business world, the more specific we are, the clearer we are, the easier things run or operate. If you work in a plant and instructions are given, the clearer the instructions are given, the ^{more} explicit the instructions are, the easier it is to comply to the instructions and to complete the job. God wants us to be businesslike with Him, ~~and~~ one of the means of appropriating divine power in our unique, individualized relationships with the Lord is to utilize an avenue of approach to God which is labeled in the Word of God as "prayer." By virtue of the Gospel of Grace and the Cross of Christ (which separates the New Testament from the Old), ~~means~~ that the believer today is placed in a very privileged position in contrast to the Old Testament saint who was obligated to go through a religious mediator, a Levitical, external, limited human being who ministered in a stone quarry, a building "made with hands." I emphasize that because, in the Book of Hebrews, chapters eight and nine, the Apostle Paul is seeking to communicate a very important principle to these saved Jews that they now worship a Christ who is in a tabernacle "not made with hands." By virtue of the new birth and the indwelling Spirit, we are now related to a living, exalted Christ who is the head of the Church. Through this living relationship, we too are seated in the heavenlies in Christ; thus, where He is, we are as well. An understanding of our relationship is on a different foundation entirely by virtue of the indwelling and baptism of the Spirit which has placed us positionally into Christ. We now fulfill this

relationship on an invisible means--through the Holy Spirit and through prayer. That is why worship in the New Testament has nothing to do with atmosphere, buildings. The early church met in houses, in the woods. They were worshipping. What's worship? Worship is a heart, or mental response to the Word of God. That's why the woman at the well in John 4 as the Lord Jesus used a golden opportunity to witness to a half-breed Samaritan woman, (who asked him a question when he used water to illustrate himself as living water) was told by Christ, "If you knew who it was who asks you for a drink of H₂O, you would ask of me for living water. That water would be in you a well of water springing up to everlasting life." He used in His ministry things the Jews could understand to illustrate himself. He said, "You understand food; I want you to know I'm the Bread of Life. You need food to live; You need me to live. You need water to live; You need me to live. You need air: 'The wind blows where it listeth, and you hear the sound thereof. So is everyone that is born of the Spirit.' You need the air to live; you need Me to live." She asked him a question. The Samaritans were not allowed to go to Jerusalem to worship. That bothered her. She wanted to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, the holy city, to get close to God. This reminds me of one gal who asked her pastor, ^{this question} after she had gotten saved and continued to go to a church where they had an altar and clergymen who wore nightgowns, duplicating the priesthood.. She said to him, "Why do you have an altar here in church?" He said, "That symbolizes the presence of God." Did you get that? He should have read John 4. He should read the book of Hebrews. Where does God reside today? --"What, know ye not that your body is the temple of the living God?"(I Cor. 6:19,20). "For God has said, I will walk in them, and will live in them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people, saith the Lord."

The Spirit of God takes up residence in each and every child of God. Thus, your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. If you're not a child of God, God does not live in you. Though He is all around you, and He is as present as the air you breathe, He is too much of a gentleman to take up residence in you. As you must inhale to take in air to live, you must inhale by faith to be born again. Apart from your personal willingness to breathe, you cannot live physically; and apart from your personal willingness to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, you'll go to hell! No one can make you breathe as no one can make you eat or drink. This is something you must do for yourself. Becoming a child of God is just as personal. No clergyman, no religion, ~~no~~ your great grandmother, ^{no} your mother, ^{and} ~~no~~ your Aunt Elizabeth can't make you a child of God. Each individual must personally respond from their own volition to the information given in the Word of God concerning the person of Jesus Christ, His death for them, His resurrection for them, and all that He provided for them and is now willing to give them as a gift based upon grace (unmerited favor)...

As a result of that initial position and having become a child of God, your body becomes the temple of the Holy Spirit, and then, you no longer need to go to a certain place to commune with God. Whereever you are at, you have with you the Spirit of Christ that enables you to enjoy a relationship with the Lord which allows you to come boldly to the throne of grace anytime, any place, anywhere. There is no specified time, such as a Saturday night, where you then can go and have a close relationship with God. There is no such thing as going to a religious place, such as Salt Lake City, Mecca, Rome, ^{or} Jerusalem, where you have an inside track and there is a line that is just a little bit shorter and a little bit bigger so that God listens just a little more fully and completely. That's religion, ^{That's} Judaism, but that's not Christianity. Christianity is a heart-relationship with Jesus Christ

where you are personally and intimately and uniquely united to God so that he is your living exalted head and you become a living stone within that church and you give an account only to him, ~~but~~ through the Spirit of God that indwells you, you have an open line which allows you to commune with him every moment of every day. That's Christianity. Every believer has an equal priesthood, thus, we don't have an altar here, because the last altar was the cross where the sin question was taken care of in total. What need is there, therefore, for another altar? There is none. I hope you see that, because all of this is foundational and logical and a basis for you understanding how to obtain peace. If you don't understand what I just said, you can't appropriate intelligently the peace of God. That's exactly what he's talking about. You've got to know this much and more. In the measure you understand more, you can understand the peace of God because you've got more to appropriate.

"Prayer and supplication with thanksgiving..." A thankful spirit is produced ^{in us} by the ^{Holy} Spirit. We're not thankful by nature. We don't even think in terms of thanks. We don't get up in the morning and normally thank God. That's why it's good to thank God for the food ~~for the food~~ you eat because you so seldom thank God for anything. ~~In fact, if you think over the past week, if you did pray before you ate, and you said, "Thank you for this food..."~~ Usually when you pray, you don't even thank God for the food. You're so occupied with something else that you merely use it as an opportunity (because we are supposed to pray before we eat) to ask God for something else you want Him to do for you. In most cases you don't even thank Him. We just pause for a moment and say, "God, don't forget, I need some help here!" That's fine, but we don't usually thank him for the problem let alone the food. But, if we do three times a day say a simple prayer, and

thank God for the food that he has provided, its probably the only time throughout the day that we thank him for anything because in most cases we are thinking in terms of getting, resolving, re-adjusting, and fitting Him into what we want, ^{we try and form} to cram ^{God's plan and form it} into what we think it ought to be so that we smell like a rose and we're glorified. ~~and we~~ are not thinking in terms of His glorification as did Paul. ~~So~~ Paul said, "I want you to know, brethren," in chapter four of Philippians, "that these things which happened to me, (by virtue of ^{him} finding ^{him} myself in the clink in Rome) happened to the furtherance of the Gospel." If Jesus Christ ^{was} glorified through ^{Paul} me being in jail, in chains, in prison, ^{he} who would want it any other way! ~~For~~ ^{the} great objective of the Spirit in ^{his} my life ^{was} to bring glory to Jesus Christ. Who do I think I am to dictate to God how He ought to be glorified, if he can be glorified with me having a pair of handcuffs on while the rats run across my chest. I don't have the right to say, "God I only want three-legged rats to run across my chest instead of four. Four bug me. Three have a different pattern." The reason I say that is because invariably when we rebel it's because of the fact that we have designed 3-legged rats in contrast to four as we seek to improvise and readjust God's plan to be tailor-made to what we think things ought to be like in our particular area.

Verse 7: "And the peace of God which passeth all (human) understanding shall keep your hearts and minds by Christ Jesus." "The peace of God" - His legacy betrothed upon the child of God--God's peace which passes all human understanding. That means the psychologist knows nothing of this peace. This peace is out of this world. This peace is divine. This peace is God-wrought. You don't go to Range Mental Health to ~~have to~~ talk about this. They know nothing of this. This is out of the human realm. This is past the natural man's capability of understanding. We're talking about commodities which are

divine and supernatural. We're not talking about things that unbelievers have. We're talking about something totally different. "The peace of God which passes all human understanding shall keep..." Now the word "keep" means to "walk guard mount". "Shall keep or walk guard mount around your hearts and minds." ~~"Hearts and minds are put together. They are inseparable."~~ All of this, of course, was provided through Christ Jesus, apart from which it cannot be obtained.

All right, now that is the explanation of the verses. Now you have several doctrines set forth here. These doctrines could be listed. 1. "Let your moderation be known unto all men"--Here we have the doctrine of personal holiness. My personal life style should amplify and exemplify my relationship with Jesus Christ. 2. "The Lord is at hand" would emphasize I John 3:1-3, the imminent return of Christ as a "purifying hope." "Every man that has this hope in him purifies himself even as he (Christ) is pure." The blessed hope--"Looking for that blessed hope and glorious appearing of the great God and our saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13). Referred to in I Thes. 4:13-18 as the "comforting hope." Our life should be lived as Peter put it in I Peter 5, "Brethren, dearly beloved, if judgment is coming and all these things around us are going to be dissolved with fervent heat, what manner of men ought we to be in all holy conversation (manner of life)." How should we act in the light of the fact that we are citizens of heaven, pilgrims and strangers passing through a world that is deteriorating, passing away, looking forward to only one great climactic event--a huge Mt. St. Helens? The whole thing is going to burn up. Heavens and the earth are going to melt with fervent heat. Peter says, "Now look it. If this is true, why are you getting disturbed and so excited and concerned about the fact that things are moving in that direction? Your hope isn't down here. Your hope's up

there. Your future isn't here. Your future is ^{in heaven} there. Well, that should have profound affects upon us, shouldn't it?

3. We look at verse 6 and we notice that worrying is a sin--as much as drunkeness, immorality. We ought to start the Worried Majority. We'd all qualify. We certainly would. We'd all qualify. You see, Paul is actually making, not a request, but a dogmatic statement or a command. He's saying in effect, "You are worrying. Stop it!" They were doing something they shouldn't have been doing. This didn't mean they were carnal. However, they were reflecting a spirit of carnality, as were Eudias and Syntche. No doubt Paul used them to illustrate the point. When I detect the fact that I am worrying, anxious, or uptight about anything, I should be very much aware of the fact that this is not of the Spirit. This is of the flesh. It is one of many manifestations of the flesh, which means flesh is flesh. How it manifests itself is irrelevant, God can't use any manifestation of the flesh. Worry is sin because our old sin nature is declared to be sinful.

4. We see the doctrine of prayer which involves the doctrine of the priesthood of the believer. We also recognize the fact that we are told to pray. The Lord JESUS said, "Men ought always to pray and not to faint." Praying is one of the requirements given to the believer. We are told to come boldly unto the throne of grace to find help in the time of need. Well, that means the only time you wouldn't have to pray is when you never need help. Is there anyone who doesn't need help? Well, why aren't you praying? Jesus said, "Without me you can do nothing." This means that no matter what is before you, you are incapable for the task, then apparently, he wants you to bring all things before him in everything giving thanks and making definite requests. That means God says, "Look it, I realize

things are going to come your way that are unexpected. I'm not asking you to be a prophet. You don't have to look into a cup and read tea leaves before you make your request for prayer. You know, the average person who goes to a tea leaf reader to find out what the future holds, wouldn't take the information for the purpose of bringing it to the Lord anyway. The child of God knows there is no point in knowing the future anyway. I can't even handle the present, let alone the future. God is gracious in not showing me the future, because if I can't handle the present which I can see, how could I handle what I can't see? I can relate to that very easily by virtue of the fact that if I would have known when I came to northern Minnesota and begin to pastor in a church, if I would have known then what I know now, I would have never come. Not on your life! That was why He didn't show me, because he knew how I would have acted. You couldn't have drug me here with a 100 teams of horses. I suspect that the same is still true. If God would show me what I will yet face, by way of entering into greater conflicts for him, as He seeks to expand me in this good fight. of faith warring as a good soldier and learning how to use the armor which he has provided and he thrusts me further out in the front lines, when I get there I may say, "I don't like it!" I've heard believers say, "Well, I don't know if I could stand up under persecution. Why, if they took my baby from me or did as they did in history past and swat my baby's brains out on stones before me unless I recant and denounce Jesus Christ, why I as a mother ^{think} I would just turn my back on Jesus Christ. I would tell them that I want nothing to do with Jesus Christ! I'm going to keep a clutch to my baby, and to hell with Jesus Christ! My baby comes first!" She probably would, but I do know this: ~~If at that point in time, and the Word of God is true,~~ we are told that "there is no temptation taken you, but

such is common to man" (others have been there before; your situation isn't unique.) "God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will with the temptation also make a way of escape that ye may be able to bear it." The unique difference between the believer and the unbeliever is this--"My grace is sufficient." God knows our breaking point, He knows what we are capable of, He knows what He has provided for us, He knows how He has expanded us, He knows our growth, & understands our development. These things are designed to conform us to the image of Christ, ~~so~~ God won't allow us to be put in a situation where we are not able to appropriate what He has provided. ~~When you get to that point...~~ I can walk into any hospital room, talk to any believer, and I can say to them, "God understands you better than you understand yourself. He understands your situation better than you understand your situation. He brought you along, and He has provided all that you need to be able to be what he wants you to be in this particular situation, All of us are in a situation, it just varies. We'd rather swap situations. That's really what we're doing. We're saying in effect, "I don't like my situation. I like yours better." Someone said, "~~If everyone would take all their problems and difficulties, we could all bring ours and put it in a pile up on the stage; and you would have chance to trade your in for another's, when you saw them, you would go pick up your own.~~" Of course, we think no one has got it as bad as we do. That's not even the point. The point isn't how bad I've got it, ~~because no matter how well I've got it,~~ don't we tell the unbeliever that no matter how good he thinks he's got it, he's got nothing. That means our success is not predicated upon how good we think we have it or don't have it. Our success is predicated upon a unique, external relationship; yet, it is internal by virtue of our relationship with Christ. That's what makes the game!

--Not the situation at all. It's our relationship with the Holy Spirit and enjoying the peace of God which passes all understanding in and through the problem or difficulty which we find ourselves in that makes the difference between the believer and the unbeliever. And I might say, that's the ^{and} difference between the spiritual believer and a ^{believer} ~~that's carnal~~.

So, we're told to pray. We're told to pray according to the Word of God. "If you abide in me and my words abide in you," Jesus said in John 15:6, "ask what ye will and it shall be given unto you." He tells us in I John 5:14, "We know that if we ask anything according to his ~~name~~ will he heareth us." Now, that's the key -- Does he hear us? ~~Because~~, he goes on to say, "And we know that if he just hears us, (because that's the first problem -- he doesn't hear, he only hears those prayers that are wrought in the spirit; thus, we are told in I John 5:16 that we should make "supplications and requests in the Spirit." All prayers must be wrought "in the spirit." All must be wrought according to the Word of God; all must be wrought according to the will of God. But then he says, "Whatsoever ye ask in faith believing." Thus, I must believe that God isn't kidding; he means what He says. ~~No~~ ^{I must have} faith in His ability to do what he said He'd do for me, (which I was willing to take at face value when I was willing to commit thekeeping of my soul eternally to when I accepted Christ as my Saviour) ^{This} which says in effect, "Well, if God can take care of me in eternity forever and ever (billions and trillions, eons of years) couldn't he take care of me now in time for a few couple minutes, months, years? Couldn't he do that?" "No, he could take care of me for millions of years in eternity, but right now I don't think he could cut it!" ~~You must go to Beacon Bible Church.~~ The peace of God which passes all understanding, is appropriated on the basis of faith as we approach the throne of Grace through prayer. ~~Now, peace.~~ ~~God~~ is the Author of peace, ~~which he is;~~ and thus the announcement was made in conjunction with Christ's:

birth:

"Peace on earth; goodwill towards men." To what was that referring?

"Peace on earth"? Now we know that the Lord Jesus came to establish the kingdom. ~~we~~ we know from the Word of God that though it has been postponed, ~~and~~ because it was rejected when Christ first came, when He comes again as the Prince of Peace, he will indeed impose with a rod of iron and judgment, peace on earth. The world is looking for peace today. The world wants everything that God has a monopoly on. They want it all. And they devise systems of getting, ~~which we will look at if a moment), which we like.~~ ^{it, which we like.} In fact, we would prefer their system to God's system. That's why we invariably use their system to obtain peace.

However, as we think of peace, we think of peace on earth. Now actually, we are told in Psalm 85:10 that righteousness and peace kissed each other on the Cross. When Christ came, the cross had to precede the crown, ~~and~~ there had to be a basis upon which peace could be had. Christ provided a peace offering in dying for your sins and mine. We are told, "Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ," (Romans 5:1). ~~We tell a person,~~ You make your peace with God by responding to the peace offering which was provided so that there would be a foundation upon which you could approach God and he could accept you. Thus, Christ's death upon the cross became the means of approach, ~~and for~~ one obtaining peace with God. ~~Now~~ Christ died so that God could be and would be no longer at war with man. ~~Thus, the righteousness of God~~ and the justice of God, which ~~is~~ is at war with sin, excercised ~~its~~ its vengeance upon Jesus Christ so that God's justice was satisfied in Jesus Christ taking your place in dying in our stead, in burying the penalty of God's wrath that had to be executed upon sin! Now God's no longer mad at you. God no longer must condemn you, because his vengeance and condemnation was already poured out on someone else--your substitute. Boy, that's a good message to give the unsaved world, isn't it?

Anybody can escape; Jesus Christ took their rap! ~~Now~~ that doesn't mean the unbeliever or the sinner is going to be at peace with God, because by nature we're sinners, ~~and~~ sin is nothing more than independence, which says in effect, "God, you designed the heavens and the earth. You designed a plan and a purpose for man. I don't like the plan! I don't like the blueprint." ~~And even though it's the way of peace as we're told in Romans 1,~~ "The way of destruction and misery and they have not known peace, because they love darkness rather than light." That's why there is no peace. Nothing is fitting into the plan of God. Nothing is complying to the will of God. He has a monopoly on peace, a monopoly on love, a monopoly on joy. The world knows nothing of this! They've got to improvise ~~and~~ design substitutes. ~~So, someone shows me from the Word of God that as~~ ^{says me} a rebellious rebel running from God and doing my own thing, I do not have peace with God; but God did all that he could in providing a basis upon which I could make my peace with him. He's not at war with me. That's why God's not judging the world today. That's why potentially everyone can get saved. My, the patience of God! He's allowing man to do his own thing, ~~and all~~ of the corruption, the debauchery, the crime, the immorality, and all these ~~open~~ things ~~that~~ we stand abhorred at, God ~~doesn't do~~ ^{allows} a ~~thing~~. Why doesn't he do something?!?!--Because ~~He~~ is at peace with sinful man ~~who is doing his own thing~~. God says, "I'm not judging you. I'm extending grace to rebels while they do their own thing, ^{and} inviting them to exchange, if they would, what they are for a new life in Jesus Christ. ⁶⁰ Would you come? Would you accept Jesus Christ as your Saviour? Would you place your faith in him? Would you be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ?" Now a person has a decision to make. They can either say, "Yes, I'll accept that avenue. I'll accept that way and be reconciled to God through faith in Christ," or they can say, "No, I don't want Jesus Christ. I love darkness rather than light."¹

"And though you're not at war with me, God, I'm not interested in what you have to give away. I like what I've got. I like what I am, and I'll keep right on living my life my way." Go to hell then, because that is what that leads to. That's what you have in John 3:19: "Light has come into the world, but men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil." They won't come to the light, because the light shows them what they are, ~~and they don't like that~~. They think they are okay. But, if you come to the light, then you'll see what God can do for you, ~~the next verse goes on to say, that~~ what he does is good and compatible with light. "~~Peace on earth...~~" Now, this says "the peace of God". Have you got that? There are three types of peace: (1) Peace with God when one places their faith in Christ. That means you may have made your peace with God, and you are now a child of God, ~~but~~ ^{but} you ^{still} ⁽²⁾ ~~may not have the peace of~~ God. These Philippians didn't. They had peace with God, but not the peace of God. When you worry, you don't have the peace of God. ~~That's all that he's telling them.~~ (2) Then we mentioned "peace on earth". --the kingdom. When the Prince of Peace comes back, he will enforce world peace with a rod of iron. Now, the world can't have peace today because the Prince of Peace is gone. The unbeliever cannot enjoy peace today unless he accepts the Prince of Peace as his personal Saviour. The believer who has made his peace with God should enjoy the peace of God, which is what is referred to here. This is what he should do or should enjoy, but oft times doesn't. Now, where does the world look for peace? (Drawing --) There is the broad road which leads to hell. Before you got saved, you wanted peace. You wanted joy. You looked for joy and peace in the world, because, as worldlings, you had no ~~recourse or~~ choice. You had to look to the world to find what you were looking for. You may have looked to people. A child does that.

He looks to his mommy and daddy. Not only that, but he'll look to his mommy and daddy for things. Thus, joy, peace, and satisfaction would be the opposite of tension and worry. You know that little baby, when he doesn't get his own way---(end of tape) That's tension! that's not peace. That's anxiety. That's worry. Now, a child thinks in terms of people. The child thinks in terms of things. The child thinks in terms of places, and ~~he thinks~~ in terms of events. Everything falls off of this. The young fellow or girl says (~~whose 20, 28, 25~~), "If I only had a girlfriend/boyfriend, or if I could only get married, that would resolve me of all my problems." You never hear a married couple say that! They know better. It's the anticipation and the idea that a person can provide for me some joy, satisfaction, peace, or happiness. (~~all which is the antithesis of~~ anxiety, worry, and a stiff neck). This also can also result in ulcers, the red things inside your duoduedonal. You've got to take a shot of Mylex to kinda' straighten things out. That means that while you have been full of anxiety like that little baby, although you are an adult, ~~you kind of hide it a little bit better~~ ~~but~~ ~~on~~ the inside your whole system knew that you're really.... ~~You know, a~~ ~~kid,~~ that's why mothers grab this baby because the thing is turning red, and then it turns blue, and then when it starts to turn green you figure "Let's pick this thing up, and ...oh, do you want this and you grab it back and stick in plugs, and anything else you want, this, this, give it to him! So you run down town and buy half a dozen---- Take them all! Anything! Just shut up!" The only thing is, God doesn't operate like that. The kid thinks God is going to operate like the ~~kid thinks~~ the parents ought to operate, but God doesn't do that. You know, we cry and say, "God, come across!" and he doesn't. But by way of tension, that is the way it works. You have probably read the book, None of These Diseases. Obviously, the medical science has said in effect that most of

diseases that people have are a result of one's own making because of anxiety. That's all. Man has plans, purposes, objectives; but none of these things are coming to pass. This guy who's been waiting three years to get this gal, and now he's going to get married and it doesn't work out that way! He's disappointed. Usually, the anticipation gives you greater satisfaction than the actual thing itself. We look to the world, or the world looks to the world as we think of being born on the broad road and that's where we looked. We looked to loved ones, families, and we say, "That's our source of peace. That's our place of joy." But that is not what it is talking about in Philippians 4:6 at all. He is talking about a peace that is divine and outside of this world. You see, after this couple gets married, is there peace there? No, that isn't where it's found; so they get a divorce because it isn't what they thought it was. Well, another let down! Peace is not found in another member of the human race. Peace is found in the Prince of Peace. Peace is not found in things, for then, after marriage she may think, "My, if I only had that tri-level home, new furniture, television, new stove....." and he's thinking in terms of automobiles, yachts, boats, guns, and all the rest of it. Though maybe there will be some joy and some satisfaction, and some peace and some contentment after they are acquired, what happens--it's not there at all. I just heard the story of a fella in Florida who shot himself on the beach where he had a house. He owned two automobile agencies. He was considered by all the entire state as the epitome of success. He had a beautiful wife, two children, all kinds of money; there wasn't anything he couldn't do if he wanted to do it, but he never had peace. The fellow who worked with him in the automobile agency said, "If you don't have peace within yourself, you have absolute nothing." This guy shot himself having what most people think they need to have peace. He found out after he acquired it all that

peace is not there. If he would have known Jesus Christ, believed the word of God, he would have said, "Peace is not in a person. Peace is not in a girlfriend. Peace is not in my wife. Peace is not in things. Peace is not in a home. Peace is not in my job. Peace is not having a new kitchen sink. Peace is not having a new dishwasher. Peace is in Jesus Christ.

Now, he killed himself on a beach--a place where people think they could have peace. All year long this unbeliever says as he looks forward to a month's vacation, "We're going to fly to Hawaii! I'm looking forward to the beaches, to surfing, the night clubs, and all those things that will give my flesh something new with which to revel." As the plane is about to come in, he looks out the window as he leans over the other passenger, and he says, "That's Hawaii! That's Hawaii! I can hardly wait!" Then the plane lands, but they forgot to put his luggage on the plane. All of the happiness that he had now turns into worry, anxiety, because he can't say, "I'm here in the will of God, and all things work together to good to them that love God." He doesn't think that way. He says, "What am I going to do about luggage?" This guy that was smiling in the plane is now the epitome of a red-necked, eight-month-old baby that just lost its pacifier. His peace and satisfaction is found in things, places, events. Some people always need something to look forward to as we think of events. All these are systems of pacification. as I seek to escape from the reality of life and say, "My! There's going to be a prom next month. There's going to be a Super Bowl next year!" or whatever. "There's going to be a hockey game!...I'm going to the cities!...I'm going here!...In the summer we can go to Valley Fair!..." and I live in the light of the anticipation of great events. That's why some churches have three-ring circuses, outside speakers, special music (imported), because the people are like yo-yo's. They've got to have something new and different.

They have to be worked up and whipped up emotionally. Just like the unsaved.

Some of you are interested in politics. We might include that as well. There was a poll taken concerning what was the most important problems or things that had to be resolved in the 80's. The present administration, I'm sure, would go along with this. There were over a thousand that were interviewed. I'll list a few, and I'm sure you probably will agree: inflation, energy, national defense, government spending, industrial production, avoidance of war, unemployment, taxes. there were a couple more, but I forget what they were. I think all of us here would agree with that. Everyone of those things I mentioned are right here ~~(on/the/broad/road)~~. They are on the broad road that is leading to hell. We say in Romans 1 as we study that book, that the ungodly worship creation rather than the Creator. True, true, true! When the Administration comes into office, where do they look to resolve their problems? Do they not look to Creation? Do they not look to people? Things? Places? Events? They most certainly do. They do not take a Biblical, divine approach. Nothing was said in regards to man's relationship with God, nor even their moral relationship with God, nor their relationship with each other in the home and the fact that everything is cracking up and busting to pieces. They said nothing about that. They weren't concerned about the spiritual! They were concerned about the physical. Oh! But now I'm a Christian. Am I sucked into a humanistic approach? Being involved with Creation rather than the Creator? Do I really believe that if inflation was resolved along with the other things which I just mentioned would be brought under control and were just exactly the way I want them, I could indeed have peace? Would I actually believe that? Most Christians would. No! You wouldn't be at peace at all, because peace is not found in not having inflation. Did you have peace as a Christian before inflation was a great as it is? How long have you been saved?

Well, I've been saved ten years. Let's go back ten years. Inflation wasn't nearly as great then as it is now; in fact, things were pretty good. You were caught right there in the middle where you had pretty many bucks and things were still stable. Financing was available. That was kind of a prime time. Now, did you worry? Sure enough, you did. What's the problem? Well, the problem isn't inflation. The problem is me, because thekey is always my relationship to God. My joy and satisfaction should not be predicated upon the world; it shoudl be predicated upon what God has provided divinely for me in Christ. Thus, he has provided a peace which is out of this world, that is not predicated upon circumstances, peaceful places, things, events. That's the way the unsaved operate. That isn't the way a Christian should operate.

As we think of anxiety and worry, the world also has designed remedies. There was one on the wall of a bar that I noticed as we came through Cloquet yesterday. It said something like this: If you feel unhappy or blue, come into Tilly's and have a few. Tilly's on the ball. Tilly knows that the world is filled with people who worry and who have anxiety, whose necks are stiff just like the baby. And they've carried their neck so stiff, and their fists are so tight that their knuckles are white; and they walk around like that all the time. And they have ulcers; and when they have a pizza, there's just a fire inside. Tilly knew that, so he says, "Now, not knowing Jesus Christ as my Saviour, and nothing about a divine peace provided through Jesus Christ, we've got to do something with these poor people that drive by this place." So he says, "There has to be an escape mechanism from this." So, TILLY'S BAR is the escape. "Don't be filled with the Spirit, when you can be drunk with wine!" She took the verse and reversed it, and said, "In that we don't believe the Bible any-way, we might as well take the counterpart." So then, obviously, booze

can be a sedative. When this guy gets tipsy, then though he was tense, the guy will begin to loosen up. And when he has a few down the hatch, this guy that walked in their like this, and said, "All right, set 'em up," pretty soon he's loosened his collar and says, "What d'ya' say, Tilly? Let's sing a song, Tilly." Hey, this guy's coming along; because now, instead of having a stiff neck, his duodenal has began to relax a little bit, and the tensions are gone because he took some booze as a pacifier and is beginning to enjoy life. The world is providing for him through booze peace as he drowns his anxieties and worries in booze. This woman at home as she waits for this animal to come home every night sticks a bottle in the sweater bag. (That's the only thing I'd have against Electrolux--the bag's too small. Sorry about you guys who sell Electrolux. It shouldn't affect anybody here, I hope.)

Remember Ted Kennedy. Because Mrs. Kennedy knew her husband was running out on her (I'm not saying anything that wasn't headline news so I'm not gossiping), she became an alcoholic. Why? To get away from the hurt. It's a sedative. It's the world's way out. They also go to the doctor. The doctor knows you have tension too. He sees your white knuckles. He sees those veins in your neck. He writes out a prescription called tranquilizers. You can get them in all different colors, shapes, sizes, any way you want. If you don't like this one, we'll try another one. The world says in effect, "You need a sedative. You need to relax. You'll tear yourself apart. The rubber band's about ready to break. The spring's going to fly out of the clock. BANG! You'll have a nervous breakdown!" So, the doctor gives you a prescription so you can get on dope so you can relax and not have to worry. That's the world's substitute. There are all kinds of substitutes. This guy may become a workaholic. "I'll bury myself in my work!" or he or she may say, "I'll become involved in social life!" or here's a couple that just fought at the supper table, and what is there left to say? So, he sets down in one chair in

the living room, she sits down in another, and they turn on the television. The television becomes a sedative. Now their minds can unite on Batman, Wonder Woman, or Johnny Carson, or something else. Thus, TV is used as a sedative. Have you ever caught yourself running from reality and going to the television, becoming absolved in a cowboy movie as a means of escape? Haven't you ever done that? Oh, sure you have! Sure you have! You hide in front of the television. Or, maybe you want to go to sleep. All of a sudden you are going to sleep at five. Five??? What are you doing in bed at 5 o'clock? Well, God's provided peace, but I don't want that peace, so if I can go to sleep I can forget about it because I'm like this and ready to break. Maybe if I could just sleep it would go away. The guy becomes a health expert. Sleeping his problems away. Well, you can buy magazines; you can buy books and bury yourself in them. They are all sedatives designed by the world. Then you can buy the propaganda. If you are known by the right people or have the right person or live in the right home and have the right commodities and have bought the right things and are at the right place at the right time and can attend the right event; then all of these things can give you some peace and joy and satisfaction. You can buy that garbage if you want to. That isn't what the Bible says at all. The Bible teaches that peace is only appropriated from Jesus Christ and through him, by the Spirit of Christ that indwells, and by faith recognizing that God has designed a plan for my life. All things do work together for good to them that love good and to those who are called according to his purpose. If I by faith believe that, and not translate it to say, "All things work together for peace, for a good time, for some satisfaction of mine". That isn't what it says at all. All things work together for good to them that love God, and to them who are called according to his purpose. His purpose, his plan, his objective, his program. Oh! God didn't say all things were good. He didn't say that at all. He's saying that while

you're going through something that is not good, the peace of God can sustain you, because your peace is not found in that situation or problem or difficulty. Your peace is found in the promises of God, realizing that the overall objective of these things has been fitted into a divine plan and program which will bring glory to God, and even if I'm in jail with Paul, Paul says that I can have peace, because these things are happening unto me for the furtherance of his plan and his purpose and that's the issue, not mine! Oh, I thought it was my plan and my objectives and my purposes. This is the peace of God that passeth all understanding.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed upon thee, because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3). Where does peace come from? "THOU wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed upon thee." That is the source of peace. Jesus said in John 14:27, "My peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you. Not as the world giveth give I unto you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let it be afraid." Jesus says the world seeks peace; the peace I give to you is not of this world. Do I get that? "My peace I leave with you...not as the world giveth give I unto you." It's not Tilly's peace. It's not the peace that enebriates us, because we got tanked up with booze. It's the peace of Christ. I have to recognize that.

You see, our problem is that we don't by faith appropriate or utilize the very key to the problem as it's set forth here in Philippians. Notice verse 6, "Be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer (Don't worry about anything), but by prayer and supplication make those requests known unto God." I Peter 5:7, "Casting all of your care upon him for he cares for you." The word "casting" is the same word they use with the Greeks who wrestled. When one slammed another on the mat. "Cast", plant your cares upon him. Can we by faith take those problems or difficulties that we see before us and utilize the avenue of prayer by communing with our heavenly father, the God of the universe, the God of Creation, and bypass

His creation as we go to its Author and enumerate those problems as we would tell a psychologist seeking to transfer our thinking from a problem in this world to another area in the world. Get involved in cribbage. Take up tennis. Play a little golf. That's the world's remedy. Bury yourself in some other activity so you can escape that momentary problem. God says, "They were lying. You bring those problems to your Great Psychiatrist, the one who understands your thoughts from afar and knows exactly what you are going through, because I was there. You allow me to replace that anxiety and that problem with my divine peace, so I can walk guardmount around your heart." Then you can rest at night, because Jesus Christ is the sentry. That's the kind of guard or sentry you need--Jesus Christ. You see, the last place the believer goes to obtain that kind of peace of mind is to God. He would rather duplicate what the unbeliever does and seek that satisfaction and that relaxation and that tranquilizer from the world. They will run to the world. We will run to the world, and say, "Maybe at Valley Fair, maybe at the booze bar, maybe at Tilly's we can get it!" God says, "You'll never find it there. Never! If you are going to find satisfaction in life, you must find it in the Creator of the universe or you'll never find it. My heart bleeds as I watch these miserable old people in Florida, who in the twilight years of life have worked all of their life for some satisfaction, sit there in a stinking camp where all these campers are---miserable. Man, oh man! For years they've been walking around like this (sour face). Years! There is only one thing that can change the inside which would result in an external change, and that would be an internal revolution wrought by God. That's a miracle! When the Spirit of Christ transforms self-will, determined, sinners who may be successful but disconnected from God and doesn't know why he is here and doesn't know where he's going.

Like the businessman who held two automobile agencies, he doesn't know why he's here! There is no peace! I wonder as we think of that man who shot himself if anyone ever walked up to him and said, "Do you know the Prince of Peace? Do you know Jesus Christ?" You know, even believers back off because they have been sucked into that con game and into thinking, "Boy! If I had a new car every year, every week, Boy! that's living! Boy! If I could buy a new car every week would I be happy!" Was he happy? Happiness isn't found in buying a new car every week, every year. That will make you miserable. The very thing that you think will bring you happiness will make you miserable! We don't find joy and peace and satisfaction in people, in things, in places, or in events. That peace, that joy, that satisfaction is found in Jesus Christ. The believer has the unique opportunity and privilege to draw upon what God has provided in His grace through the means of prayer in pouring out his heart to Jesus Christ and say, "God, this is the way it is! I am incapable of doing anything. But, you are capable of doing everything, so I am laying the whole thing in your hand. I'm putting it in your lap. I'm slamming it on your back. I'm not carrying it! My neck can't take it. My duodenal is going crazy. I want a rest." There remains a rest for the people of God. Are you resting in Jesus Christ? Are you resting in the promises of God? Are you allowing the Spirit of Christ to fulfill His will in your life, or do you have a plan that's not according to your expectations or likes and you're irritated? You're just like that eight-month-old baby. Your neck is stretched. The veins in your neck right now are tight. That's anxiety. You'll kill yourself. The very thing you are after, you're losing. Jesus said, "Without me you can do absolutely nothing." Do you believe that? Do you believe that? Let's bow our heads in prayer.

TWENTY-FIVE

You may not know this Prince of Peace as your prince, your personal Saviour, the one who came to make peace with you. That means that there is a starting point in becoming a Christian. You don't become a Christian by being good, by changing your life style. That's not it at all. You come just as you are--a sinner. All God wants you to do is place your faith in the offering he provided for you in His Son Jesus Christ who died for all that you are. He can't use you the way you are. After he died, he arose again to prove that he was more than just another man or religious leader. He was the God of the universe. Now as a living Saviour, he wants to give you the benefits he purchased for you; namely, a new life. If you've never become the recipient of a new life in Jesus Christ, then what you need to do is say, "I'm going to place my faith in Jesus Christ, who died for me to give me new life, which is eternal." That's how you go to heaven. Then the Spirit of Christ takes up residence within so that you can allow him to run your life. Even though things may look bleak in the future, that's not even the issue. God likes odds. He enjoys that. The more difficult and impossible it may seem, then that's where He likes to do business. In and through it all, he gives the child the Spirit of God, the Spirit of grace, and all the power that is needed to be what God wants them to be, so in and through it all, he can glorify himself.

Are you resting in the promises of God? Are you in a business-like way taking these problems to the Lord and casting your cares upon him, allowing him in turn to walk guardmount around your heart? Are you in perfect peace because your mind is stayed upon him? This is divine peace. This is a peace that I can't give you as a preacher. But this is a peace that you can get straight from God if you'll go to him. Will you go to him? Will you go to him? I repeat...WILL YOU GO TO HIM? I say that because as Christians we won't go to him. I beseech you, therefore, brethren, that we consider our great high priest. The one who is touched with

TWENTY-SIX

the feelings of our infirmities, the one who understands us, and the one who can resolve the problem.