

TITLE: RECIPE FOR PEACE

TEXT: PHIL 4:4-9

THESIS: The purpose of this sermon is to study the ingredients necessary to have true peace in our lives.

INTRO: 2 Kings 25:22-26 – Gedaliah, the Governor of Jerusalem, offered peace to the inhabitants of Judah who remained after Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the city and took the people into Babylonian captivity. His offer was, to say the least, declined! This offer was from God. Peace with God was refused, and the people “escaped” to Egypt, where they died. People then and today misunderstand the definition of peace. True peace is peace with God.

I. INGREDIENTS (v. 4-6, 8-9a):

- A. (v. 4) Rejoice (commanded twice) – Be filled with joy always
Paul was in jail when he wrote this, & they knew how he had been in jail there in Philippi about 10 years earlier (Acts 16)
- B. (v. 5) Be Gentle & Humble towards All
 - 1. Let your moderation [forbearance] -be equitable, fair, gentle, humble; “able to submit to injustice” (turn...other cheek)
 - 2. Have this proper attitude towards all! *Does this characteristic describe you? Be Honest with yourself!* How many times do we hear, “You don’t have to take that!” (i.e., “fight back!”). As a Christian, you *do* have to take it (to a certain extent)...It doesn’t mean that we have to be a doormat for everyone!
 - 3. “The Lord is at hand”
 - a. Warning – God knows; He is aware of your actions
 - b. Encouragement – God knows; He cares
- C. (v. 6) Depend on God
 - 1. Be careful (full of care; worry) [anxious] for nothing. The word means “take no thought.” Don’t worry!
 - 2. Worrying is useless and hinders true peace. The world knows this. Psychologists teach not to worry.
 - 3. **Mt 6:25-34** - Don’t worry about what to eat, drink, etc. Seek 1st the kingdom. Here, don’t worry, but pray!
 - 4. Bring it before God; prayer & supplication (petition) (i.e., “pray to God and ask Him...”).
 - 5. With Thanksgiving! – Don’t just come to God with complaints, but be thankful for His love and mercy!
 - 6. Trust in God. No wonder we can rejoice (v. 4)!
- D. (v. 8) Have proper thoughts. *Do the things you think about have these qualities?*
 - 1. True – “loving the truth”
 - 2. Honest – [honorable] “reverend, grave, of character” – required of deacons (1 Tim 3:8)
 - 3. Just – righteous, holy
 - 4. Pure – clean; innocent
 - 5. Lovely – acceptable, pleasing; lit. “towards or with love”
 - 6. Good report – εὐφημῶς (euphemism) - lit. “good saying”
 - 7. Virtuous – excellence; moral goodness
 - 8. Praiseworthy – commendableThink on (consider; reason) these things
Psalm 101:3 - I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.
- E. (v. 9a) Have proper actions (“These things...do” - imperative)
 - 1. What you all have learned and received (what Paul had preached)
 - 2. What you all have heard and seen (what Paul had practiced)
 - 3. We know what Paul preached *and* practiced by what the Scriptures tell us.
 - 4. Example for us:
 - a. Follow Paul’s example (in words and deeds) in order to have peace
 - b. People should be able to follow *our* example (what *we* preach *and* practice)

II. RESULTS (v. 7, 9b):

- A. Peace of God – passes all understanding (human wisdom) – will guard (protect) us by means of Christ Jesus
- B. God of peace shall be with you
- C. Peace (harmony, security) – this is peace with God and those who follow Him (1 John 1:7); not with the world.
- D. Eph 2:11-14 – By His death, Jesus made peace. But this peace exists **ONLY** in His body, the church.

CONCLUSION: Earthly peace will never be...Mankind will make sure of this! However, these verses give us a promise...a promise of true peace. Peace with God is greater than any peace we can ever achieve on Earth. And this godly peace can only be found among obedient believers in Christ’s church. Are you a member of that church? If so, have you had any problems recognizing that peace in your life? It should be there. If not, apply these ingredients in Paul’s recipe for peace.