

A Peace-Filled Joy

Main Point: The Gospel casts out _____ and brings

The _____

- Rejoice in the Lord _____ (v.4)
- Let your _____ be known to everyone (v.5)
- Do not be _____ (v.6)

The _____

- Prayer, supplication, and _____ (v.6)
- _____ (v.8)

The Promise

- The peace _____ (v.7)
- _____ peace (v.9)

Personal observations from the message.

1. How would you summarize what you learned in a sentence or two?
2. What point or verse did you find most helpful? Why?
3. What is a question you have?
4. What is the next step you will take?

Discussion questions from the message.

1. What are things that cause you to be anxious and to worry? When are you tempted to think that God doesn't seem to know what's best for you or that he doesn't care? How do you respond when these thoughts are filling your mind?
2. Read Philippians 4:2-3. What is Paul's desire for the two women in verse 2? Why do you suppose he calls out these women by name when he doesn't use names when talking about sin in other places? What positive things does He say about these women? Why is agreement (unity) in the church such a big deal to God?
3. What are the three commands in verses 4-6? Talk together as a group about how would you explain "Rejoice in the Lord always" to a middle school student going through an emotional breakup? How would you explain it to a friend struggling in a very difficult marriage? What does verse 5 teach us about how others should see us responding to situations and circumstances that would normally cause great anxiety and worry? How does the phrase "the Lord is near" help us understand why we can rejoice and why we can be reasonable?
4. What are the two promises we find in verses 7-9? What does the peace of God "which surpasses all understanding" mean? What does this peace guard our hearts against?
5. What kinds of things would fit what verse 8 talks about? What is the significance of thinking about what is true when we find ourselves tempted by anxiety? What are some of the things in the context of verses 4-9 that we have "learned, received, and heard?" What happens when we do them?