

## Steps to finding real Peace!

Philippians 4:1-9

Part 1

### I. What is your view of peace?

- Webster defines peace in the following ways
  - A state of tranquility or quiet, freedom from a civil disturbance
  - A state of security or order within a community provided by a law or custom
  - A pact or agreement to end hostilities between those who have been in a state of war or in a state of enmity.
- In the King James Bible the word peace is used 429 times in 400 verses. Obviously the concept of peace is pretty important to God!

### II. Passage overview on peace!

- Read Philippians 4:1-9
- Verse 1 is a transitional verse in the text that we are reading!
- Paul had just finished teaching three concepts to the Philippians
  - There would be those who would come a speak against Christ or be enemies of the Cross!
  - The believer has a citizenship that is in heaven
  - Jesus is coming back!
- Paul then says because of these things my **brethren!**
  - We must realize that these verses are written for the believer
  - If a person is living a life a part from Christ they will be unable to find the peace that we are speaking of today!

### III. Six steps to finding the God of peace!

- **Step one- Stand fast**
  - The word stand fast means to stand firm, persist, and persevere
  - How do we stand fast? There are only two ways!
  - **Part number one-We stand fast in the Lord**
    - Ephesians 6:10 “Finally my brethren be strong in the Lord and the power of His might!”
    - We need to keep our thoughts open to the Lord at all times. Practice Psalm 46:10
  - **Part number two- We stand fast with ministers and other believers**
    - Notice how Paul as a minister addresses the church in Philippi
    - My dearly beloved brothers
      - Paul realized that these people were his brothers and sisters in Christ and he cared for them
    - Whom I long to see
      - At that moment in time Paul was in prison and it was impossible for him to see these people
      - He longed for their fellowship and time spent together
    - My joy and my crown
      - This is a picture of an athlete receiving a crown for winning race or competition
      - Paul is saying his joy and crown will literally be seeing the Philippians in heaven before Christ!
      - II Timothy 4:8
      - Do we view each other as joy and crowns!
- **Step two- Agreement and unity (Verse 2-3)**
  - There can be no peace in a persons life if there is the following things happening
    - Arguing, bickering, biting, criticize, and disputing!
    - There were some in the Philippian church that were doing these things
  - Look at the following verses that illustrate Paul’s feelings on the topic of fighting within the church
    - Stand Fast in one spirit and defend the gospel Philippians 1:27
    - Love one another and be of one accord and mind Philippians 2:1-2
    - To esteem others better than yourself Philippians 2:3-4
  - In verse 2 we learn about two women that had a quarreling problem going on
    - We do not know much about these ladies other than Paul is encouraging them to be of the same mind in the Lord!
    - Notice Paul tells these two ladies to have the same mind “in the Lord” They needed to be about the Father’s business not there own need to prove someone else wrong
  - In verse 3 we learn that there is a time for a yokefellow to come in and help with the quarreling
    - The idea of the yoke fellow is one who comes along and beside someone to aid them
  - There is something very important to note about those who were quarreling!
    - These individuals are Christians with their names written in the book of life!
  - One characteristic the church as a whole needs to repent of today is a spirit of disunity, criticism, bickering, biting, disunity, and self centered ideas on what one individuals idea of the perfect church should be!
- **JOHN 3:30 “He must increase, and I must decrease! It should all be about Jesus!**