

Intro: Last Week we talked about finishing the old year off right and getting ready for the New Year

Today I want to build on that foundation. In Phil 4 Paul is writing to the church in Philippi and he says, "Listen, you can have BOTH the God of Peace...AND the Peace of God in your life if you a couple of different things! Think about that for a moment. What would it be like to live every single day of 2018 with God of Peace & Peace of God

- Knowing that, regardless of what comes: Vs 5 "The Lord is Near!" God of Peace right there!
- Knowing that, when your heart is anxious and overwhelmed... Vs 8 Peace of God...with you every step!

That is the kind of year we ALL want, right?

Principles That Bring The God of Peace...And The Peace of God To Our Lives

Phil 4:2-9

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#1. Keep Your Relationships "Right." Vs 2-3

There is nothing that will steal the peace and joy from your life QUICKER than a bad relationship.

~Home ~Spouse ~Child ~Neighbor ~Work ~Friend ~Church

Any time one of those relationships goes bad, it will drain every single ounce of joy and peace out of your life

You can have every one of the 5 or 6 going well...and the one that is bad...will dominate your life, heart, thoughts

Ex: *Marriage going through a tough patch. Affects everything!*

Here in Vs 2 it was a bad relationship at Church! Imagine That! ...That would NEVER happen to YOU, right?

Never been a time when someone said something thoughtless, or did something that hurt you, or acted in a way offended you

But it happened in Philippi! We don't even know WHAT happened...but two ladies were struggling...impacted whole church!

What do you do when that happens?

How Do You Make a Wrong Relationship Right?

- Agree "In the Lord" Lit = "think alike...Get on the same page: For the sake of the church and gospel, Have the mind of Christ! *Be like Jesus, and make yourself nothing!* 2:2 Jesus never had to have it "His way" Instead...*he wanted it God's way!*
- Live In Peace : Heb 12:14 "Make every effort to live in peace with all men!" Make it YOUR responsibility! I see it all the time. There is an issue, each side says, "Its not MY problem...they need to apologize!" Here is the reality...when there is a broken or strained relationship, doesn't matter whose FAULT It IS your problem! Mt 18 Jesus made it VERY clear! You go to your brother!
- Keep Short Accounts: Mt 5:25: Jesus said: "Settle matters quickly with your adversary" Friend: "*The longer it sits the worse it gets!*" 5:24: So important: In middle of worship...realize....broken relationship...fix it!
- Forgive Easily: Col 3:12-15 All about living as God's people: Notice what he says about forgiveness and peace! There is an inseparable relationship between the two! No Forgiveness, No Peace! Know Forgiveness "*Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*"

Applic: If there is relationship that is broken. One that you have not yet made right. Do it! Take responsibility

Why would you ever want to go Another year?

If you win your brother over...awesome! If not...you have a clear conscience

Leave it with a posture of: I am ready to reconcile when you want to do that.

Then Pray: Job 42:10 Here is the key: When you can pray for God's BEST for them, heart is healed

#2. Keep Your Attitude Right. Vs 4-7

You don't have control over what happens to you. But you DO have control over how your RESPOND to what happens!

You can choose your own attitude! You can say, I am going to choose to see the best, the right, the good, the positive

I am going to CHOOSE to do 3 things w my Attitude:

- I am going to rejoice in all things: Not FOR all things...but I am going to find God's joy in all things
Rejoice: Lit = *to have joy: to be calmly happy*
I would remind you that Paul wrote Philippians from PRISON! Yet, he found Joy!
His Best and most lasting work...was done in prison, unfairly and unjustly accused. (People gone, church gone, Letter)
Applic: It might not make sense to you; may not understand it, agree with it, or like it: God has a plan! For you Too!!
So, regardless of what comes...be positive! God can use this

- I am going to keep an attitude of patience! Paul repeats this 2 X
Gentleness: Lit = *to be mild, to be gentle, to be patient*
 Again, I may not like or agree with or understand what God is doing, but I am going to wait and trust
 Look...We can do that whatever is going on when we remember: "The Lord Is Near!"
Near: Lit = *the word means to be right at hand...to be ready...to be at your fingertips!*
 Ex: Remember Daniel in lion's den? *Daniel was fine...it was the king that didn't sleep!*
Better to be in the lion's den WITH God than in the palace WITHOUT Him!
The Lord is near! When you have that...you have peace

- I am not going to be anxious!
 Lit = *being pulled in different directions*: Imperative command: To STOP being anxious, to stop being concerned
 That's what happens to your mind, right: "What if?" Once you start it is a spiral downward!
Applic: Paul says, do you want The God of Peace and the Peace of God?
 Then, keep your attitude Positive! Don't allow your mind to pull you in All different kinds of directions!

HOW DO YOU ACTUALLY DO THAT? ITS ONE THINGS TO SAY...ANOTHER TO ACTUALLY LIVE OUT!

3. Keep Your Prayers Right! Vs 6b

Instead of letting your mind run wild in the "What If" game, that spins your mind and heart up, makes you anxious
 Pray! When you pray you talking to the one that can solve every problem.
 When you pray you are talking to the one that can provide perspective
 When you pray you are talking to the one that knows what's going on, why it is happening, and the end result!
 When you pray you are talking to the one that can actually use the bad...make it good!

There are 3 words Paul uses for prayer here in this verse that remind us of HOW we should be praying

3 Kinds Of Prayers

- Prayer: General word for prayer, Making your request known to God. Every meal I pray, pray same thing
 Thank your provision, take care of my girls. Never a single day goes by, but that I lift them up
 I pray for the Church, I pray for ministry, I pray for lost: All very general...but important
- Petition: Word for specific, intentional and intense prayer.
 Sometimes when I pray for you, I pray "for the Church" Sometime when I pray: Connection Card
 Specific, Intention, Intense
 Same with the Lost: Praying for a specific group of people, I interact with all the time by name
EX: Church: In Cuba: Next week, there, meet some new pastors, bring back 4-6...names faces
- Thanksgiving: Giving thanks to God: Commentary: "Often Eager to Ask and Slow to Appreciate!"
 When you add thanksgiving to your prayers, it focuses your mind on His goodness
 Helps you keep perspective, helps you see where He HAS been working, providing, protecting

Applic: When you do those 3 things, they bring you peace...and they bring you God of peace!
 Paul says, Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything
 When you keep your prayers up to date, it calms your anxious heart!
Peace of God will Guard your heart: Lit = *to mount a guard, to stand sentinel; to garrison; to watch in advance*

CONCL: 2018 is a blank slate for us all! WANT PEACE? God wants you to have peace and joy and His presence
 And, you CAN have that...but it only comes when you do the right things!
 ~Relationships Right Attitude Right Prayer Right

Do those things: Vs 7 Peace of God will be with you
 Do those things: Vs 9: God of Peace will be with you as well!

Make One of 3 Commitments

1. Try to Make a wrong relationship right
2. Choose to have the right kind of Attitude! (rejoice, patient, not anxious)
3. Pray right....(Start...right now...right here...next few minutes!)