

The Book of Philippians
Special Topical Study
“The Secret of Contentment”

Last week in Philippians chapter 4, we learned....

Philippians 4:6-7

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus

In the book of Philippians, there are actually, 35 **“Conditions of Assurance”** that will cause you to not worry about things in your life. Instead, they will cause you to be content I whatever situation you find yourself.

Assurance is defined as “A statement that inspires you to have confidence.”

So, these 35 points in Philippians, are the “Statements” for any person who wants to not be anxious, or worry,

If you will study and meditate upon these 35 statements in the book of Philippians by the Holy Spirit, they will inspire you to place your confidence in what Jesus is able to do in your life, and help you to not focus on the root of all worry, which is what you should do or should have done.

1. To become a subject of God’s grace (Phil. 1:6).
2. To be partaker of God’s grace (Phil. 1:7).
3. To abound more and more in love (Phil. 1:9).
4. To approve things that are excellent (Phil. 1:10).
5. To be sincere until the end (Phil. 1:11).
6. To be without offense till the end (Phil. 1:10).
7. To be filled with fruits of righteousness (Phil. 1:11).
8. To let your manner of life be as becomes the gospel of Christ (Phil. 1:27).
9. To stand fast in one spirit and one mind with others striving together for the gospel (Phil. 1:27).
10. To be not terrified by enemies (Phil. 1:28).
11. To suffer for His sake (Phil. 1:29).
12. To be likeminded with Christ (Phil. 2:2).
13. To have the same love (Phil. 2:2).
14. To be of one accord, of one mind with others (Phil. 2:2; 3:16).
15. To let nothing be done through strife and vain glory (Phil. 2:3).
16. To esteem others better than yourself (Phil. 2:3).
17. To be interested in others (Phil. 2:4).
18. To let the mind of Christ be in you (Phil. 2:5).

19. To obey the gospel (Phil. 2:12).
20. To work out your own salvation (Phil. 2:12-13).
21. To do all things without murmuring and disputings (Phil. 2:14).
22. To be blameless, harmless, and without rebuke among men (Phil. 2:15).
23. To hold forth the Word of Life (Phil. 2:16).
24. To beware of dogs, evil workers, and the circumcision party (Phil. 3:2).
25. To press toward the high calling (Phil. 3:13-16).
26. To walk by the gospel standard (Phil. 3:16).
27. To be followers of me and mark enemies of the cross of Christ (Phil. 3:17-20).
28. To stand fast in the Lord (Phil. 4:1).
29. To help all workers of Christ (Phil. 1:3).
30. To rejoice in the Lord always (Phil. 1:4).
31. To let your moderation be known to all men (Phil. 4:5).
32. To be anxious for nothing (Phil. 4:6).
33. To let requests be known to God (Phil. 4:6).
34. To think on right things (Phil. 4:8).
35. To do what you have learned, received, heard, and seen in me (Phil. 4:9).

We will start going through these 35 points this morning, taking whatever time is needed. Wherever we leave of today, we will pick back up again the next time I am here with you.

The first point that we need to learn, is that in order to have the peace of God in our life, and nor be anxious or worry, we need...

1. **To become a subject of God's grace** (Phil. 1:6).

Philippians 1:6

6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ in;

One of the most amazing things in this universe, is the fact that God loves us.

- **According to the Word of God**, we were created to be like God, so that he might have friendship with us.
- **We were made so that The Lord might have friends**. Someone to Love Him, and someone that He might lavish His love upon.
- **In every meaningful relationship**, love has to be given willingly, because the persons involved want to love each other.
- **If The Lord just needed to hear "I love you"**, he could have made pre programmed robots that were only capable of repeating the words "I love you Lord".
- **Of course, as living beings**, we understand that this kind of love is not meaningful, and it does not satisfy our desire for companionship and love.
- **So, as mighty as the Lord is**, he could not get what He wanted by any other way, except to make beings like Himself, with the capacity to choose.
- **Now, there is always the possibility** that when you give this creation the ability to choose to love God or reject Him, that these beings very well may choose to not love God.

Adam was made with the ability to choose, whether to love and believe what God said, or to reject Him, and do whatever He wanted to.

- **Of course, you know the story**, Adam choose to reject God's love and ruler ship over his life.
- **Whenever any person chooses to not love God**, He respects this decision, by not forcing himself upon anyone.

We also understand that any human child inherits the parts of his father and mothers physical attributes.

- **If you have a big nose like I do**, you either Inherited it from your mother or Father.
- **In the same way**, We Inherited our bad attitudes, bad behavior and evil nature from Adam.
- **If we were perfect when we were made**, then how did we get to all be such a mess?

The Lord told Adam that on the day that he made his choice to reject The Lord, he would die.

- **Adam still looked the same on the outside**, but not only did he begin to die physically on the day that He rejected God, he also died spiritually on the inside.
- **Man was created** Spirit, Soul, and Body.
- **After Adam rejected God**, he became Body Soul and Spirit.

The spirit no longer ruled Adam, now the flesh was in control. What ever the flesh wanted, he got.

- **Just as you Inherited your parents physical structure**, you also Inherited Adams sin nature.
- **You are not a sinner** because you sin.
- **You sin** because you are a sinner.
- **We are just doing what comes naturally** we are fallen human beings, who are ruled by our flesh.

The problem then is, in this present state, we could not have any friendship with God.

1 Timothy 6:5-6

5 ...The Blessed and Almighty God, King of kings and Lord of lords,
6 who alone has immortality, dwelling in **unapproachable light**

- **God who is perfect**, cannot have any fellowship with sin.
- **We all know** how imperfect we are.
- **If we were to be brought into His presence in our human flesh**, we would be consumed by His presence.
- **If you don't know that**, or if you don't happen to agree with that statement, then you have not really understood what sin is, or how offensive sin is to God.

Lamentations 3:22

22 It is because of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.

Those of us who understand that there is something terribly wrong with all of us, also know how helpless we each are to ever become perfect.

- No matter how hard we try, we can never be perfect.

Therein lies the problem.

How can imperfect beings who have broken Gods law, every have friendship with a Holy God?.

- **He made us, and He made the rules**, He said, "The soul that sins will die.
- **He wasn't kidding when He said** that, every person that has ever sinned, will be punished.

Thus enters, where we are at this morning in the first of our 35 points.

- **What we all deserved** was the punishment of God.
- **But God was not willing** that you should experience His punishment and separation from Him forever.
- **So knowing that we were helpless** to ever do anything about our problem, God did something about it Himself.

He had to punish sin.

He had to do the right and Just thing.

- **So He did punished sin**, Except instead of making you pay for your own sin, He punished His own son, instead of us.
- **Jesus took all of the punishment** for us, even so He did, He punished His own son, instead of us.

Jesus took all of the punishment for every person that has ever been born.

- **After Jesus paid the price**, every person on the earth who has ever been born, in a technical sense, was already forgiven.
- **But we also understand** that for a person to experience the benefits of a gift, they have to accept the gift.
- **Most of the people on the earth today**, have rejected Gods free gift, and have chosen instead to do it their way, they do not want Jesus to rule over them.

The first item on the list of things that need to be understood to have real peace, it to understand that YOU are the object of God's Grace.

- **What we all deserved** was punishment.
- **What we all have that is available**, if we want it, is forgiveness.

- **Until you understand this first one**, there is no sense going on to the second or any of the others.
- **When you understand God's Grace**, that is when Peace begins.

Having loved you before the foundation of the world. He gave you a gift that you could never earn. He gave to you a gift that you could never buy.

You are saved by grace, and it has nothing to do with anything you did, except to believe it!

2. **To be without worry, you have to be partaker of God's grace** (Phil. 1:7).

Philippians 1:7

7 just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, **you all are partakers with me of grace.**

To "Partake of God's Grace", after you have accepted it, is to live your life in this Grace.

- **It means you forgive yourself**, for all of the past things that you have done, all of the failures and regrets.
- **It means that you forgive everyone else** who has ever hurt you, taken advantage of you, or used you.
- **It means that when people are Unloving** and Unkind, you are Kind and Loving back to them.
- **You give the people in your life Grace**, because you have been given such grace.
- **To partake of God's Grace, is to enjoy your freedom** by using your freedom to bring Glory to Jesus. To seek to never do anything that would cause someone else to reject Jesus, because of your actions or words.
- **To partake of God's Grace is to live every moment** of your life as if Jesus were going to come at any moment (Because He could?).
- **To Partake of God's Grace is to have a supply** within yourself, to always have enough to give to everyone who needs His Grace.

3. To have peace and be without worry, you have to "**Abound more and more in love**" (Phil. 1:9).

Philippians 1:9 ¶

9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,

If you want to have greater peace, Love people more.

- So often, we are so focused on us, what we need, what we want.
- We get focused on what is wrong with our life.
- We forget, that Jesus promised to take care of everything in our life, if we would just keep Him first in everything.

- If things in your life right now seem like they are getting out of hand, too stressful, too busy.
- If you feel empty inside, and constantly anxious about things that might happen, or have happened in your life.