

Thanksgiving Sermon – 2018 Thank God for His Answers Philippians 4:6-9

Dear Thankful People of God:

Imagine never having to worry about anything!

- Never again to worry about things at work
- Never again to worry about things at home
- Never again to worry about things at school
- It seems impossible, doesn't it?

Yet, we are told by the Apostle Paul from Philippians this morning not to worry about anything.

Paul says:

“Do not be anxious about anything.” 4:6

We might say, “Paul, that’s easy for you to say...what worries did you have...after all you were one of Jesus’ apostles...what worries did you have in life?”

Did Paul have anything to worry about?

Listen to what Paul says about his life in I Corinthians 11:23-29

“I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea. I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily

the pressure of my concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?"

The Apostle Paul had a lot to worry about.

Yet, Paul says: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

With thanksgiving, present your requests to God = Tell God your needs and don't forget to thank him for his answers.

Rather than worry- Pray...

Rather than worry - Tell God your needs

Rather than worry – Thank God for everything

Thank God for His Answers...

We may say "What answers...? Does God answer our prayers???"

God answers our prayers every day by providing for our Daily needs.

- we have food
- we have clothes
- we have homes
- we have the sun shining today
- we were able to get up this morning and make our way here
- God has heard our prayers....Thank Him for His answers...

God will supply all of our needs. Philippians 4:19

We may say, however, God doesn't always supply all of my needs...

- I prayed for health and I still struggle with my pain
- I prayed for things to go a bit easier financially, but I still struggle
- I prayed for this and I prayed for that, but I haven't seen God's answer.

First, God says He will meet all of our needs....not our greeds or wants. He knows what we need....He knows what we don't need.

Second, God's answers are sometimes delayed. He will answer us in His time.

Third, God's answers are always what are best for us...for what He does is always for our ultimate benefit, even though don't see it at the time.

Yes, we have reason to thank God for everything...even for things and times that don't seem the best for us at the moment.

Perhaps the greatest thing we have to thank God for is the supernatural peace He gives us.

God's peace is ours. V7

“And the peace of God...will guard your hearts and minds.”

- God's peace is different from the world's peace
- It is not found in positive thinking
- It is not found in the absence of conflict
- It is not found in good feelings.

Real peace comes from knowing that because God is in control...

- our destiny is set
- our citizenship in heaven is sure
- our victory over sin is certain

We are....

Real peace comes from knowing who we are in Christ...

- We are declared “not guilty” of sin Ro 3:24
- We are free from the vicious circle of sin and death Ro 8:2

- We are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ I Cor 1:2
- We are pure and holy I Cor 1:30
- We will rise again I Cor 15:22
- We are free from trying to be saved by being good enough II Cor 3:17
- We are brand new people inside II Cor 5:17
- We are one in Christ with all other believers Gal 3:28
- We are blessed with every spiritual blessing in heaven Eph 1:3
- We are covered with God's love Eph 1:4
- We belong to Christ Eph 1:5-6
- We will live with Christ forever, we are gifts to God Eph 1:10-11
- We are marked as belonging to God by the Holy Spirit Eph 1:13
- We have been lifted from the grave to sit with Christ in glory Eph 2:6
- We have been given new lives Eph 2:10
- We have been brought near to God Eph 2:13
- We can come fearlessly into God's presence Eph 3:12
- We have everything because we have Christ; we are filled with God Col 2:10
- We are set free from our evil desires Col 2:11
- We will have eternal glory II Tim 2:10

Paul's last verse reminds us to keep our focus on what is good and positive and the God of peace will be with us. 4:8-9

We believers want to focus our attention on honorable things.

We believers want to meditate on high and noble thoughts

We believers want to fill our hearts and minds with God's Word

God's Word in our hearts will serve as a "built-in radar" for detecting wrong thoughts

Thanksgiving is all about focusing on the "good" things of life that our Lord has given us.

Thanksgiving is thanking God for everything.

When Robinson Crusoe was wrecked on his lonely island, he drew up in 2 columns what he called the evil and the good.

- He was cast on a desolate island, but he was still alive
- He was apart from human society, but he was not starving.
- He had very few clothes, but he was in a hot climate and did not need much
- He was without means of defense, but he saw no wild beasts
- He had no one to whom he could speak, but God was always with him

Thankfulness leaves no room for discouragement.

There is a legend...

- A man once found the barn where Satan kept his seeds ready to be sown in the human heart
- He found the seeds of discouragement more numerous than others
- He learned that those seeds could be made to grow almost anywhere
- When Satan was questioned, he reluctantly admitted that there was one place in which he could never...never....never get seeds of discouragement to thrive.
- “And where is that?” asked the man
- Satan replied sadly, **“In the heart of a grateful person.”**