

PHILIPPIANS Lesson 46

Chapter 4, verses 5-7: Knowing the Peace of God Through Prayer

13 March 2023

Read verses 6 and 7: You can only have peace with God through saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Religion cannot give you that peace: the prime example is Mother Theresa who said she was tormented by a crisis of belief for 50 years. She was not sure that God really exists and she had doubts until her death. She had no peace and no real joy.

“Be careful for nothing” (vs 6) because you know **“the Lord is at hand”** (vs. 5). I can have peace knowing that the Lord is with me and will not forsake me (Heb 13:5). Knowing that the Lord is with you, **“Let your moderation be known unto all men”** (vs 5).

“The Lord is at hand.” If I fail to look to the Lord who is at hand, I won’t lose my salvation, but I will lose the peace promised in verse 7. Focusing on my troubles instead of the Lord will cause me to lose peace and become full of care (careful).

1. Don’t let your cares accumulate. **“In every thing by prayer and supplication...”**

- Bring each care to the Lord immediately, one by one. Don’t wait until you have so many cares that you are crushed under the burden of them all.
 - Samson slew a thousand Philistines with the jawbone of an ass, one by one (Judges 15:15).
 - Jonathan and his armorbearer defeated numerous Philistines one by one (1 Sam. 14:4-23).
 - The disciples lost their peace when their ship became full of water (Mark 4:37). They waited until there was so much water in the ship that they couldn’t handle it. They should have talked to the Lord at the first signs of a storm.
 - We will become full of care if we don’t take each care to the Lord as they come (See hymn: What a Friend We Have in Jesus).

2. Be thankful and trust God. **“With thanksgiving.”** Thank God for everything, even the things that seem bad, and those things will not overcome you. Be confident that the Lord is performing a work in you.

3. Bring your troubles to God. He’s the only one who can give you peace. **“Let your requests be made known unto God!”** Ask God to take away whatever is troubling you. Whether He takes it away or not, you can still have peace that He will enable you to get through it.

4. Don’t let prayer be your last resort after you’ve tried everything else. Go to God first and get peace. Trust that He can handle whatever difficulty you are facing.
