

PHILIPPIANS Lesson 47

Chapter 4, verses 5-7: The Peace of God

20 March 2023

“The Lord is at hand.” (Vs 5) This is not referring to the return of the Lord, but to the constant abiding presence of the Lord Jesus Christ in the person of the Holy Spirit.

- Knowing that the Lord never abandons us makes it possible to **“Be careful for nothing.”** (Vs. 6).

“And the peace of God...” (vs 7). The word **“And”** is very important for context. It connects the promise of verse 7 to the conditions of verse 6.

- We can enjoy the peace of God **IF** we are careful for nothing and take everything to God in prayer, with thanksgiving, remembering that the Lord is at hand.
 - This peace is the peace that God possesses.
 - This peace does not come as a result of God fixing whatever is wrong or giving us what we ask for. It is based on our trust in the Lord to take care of every situation so we can get through it, be improved by it, bring glory to God as a result, and have peace throughout.

“...which passeth all understanding.” It is difficult to understand how we can have peace during a terrible situation, but God makes it possible by giving us His peace. He is never upset or worried about anything, and He passes His calmness onto us.

Prov. 3:5, “⁵ Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.”

- We lose our peace when we trust the Lord partially and trust ourselves partially.
 - When we don’t understand the situation or the benefits of our troubles, it makes us lean to our own understanding.
 - You don’t have to understand it. Just know that God will see you through it.

“...shall keep your hearts (emotions) and minds” (intellect).

- If you lose your peace, it is not due to God’s failure. It is the result of leaning on your own understanding and becoming full of cares.
 - When you don’t trust God, peace disappears.
 - When you trust God, His peace abides.

Job 34:29, “When he giveth quietness, who then can make trouble?”

- This quietness comes when you trust God so much that His peace is governing your heart.
- No person or situation can take away that kind of peace.

Isaiah 26:3, “Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on thee:*”

- When we allow our minds to become occupied with troubles, trials, difficulties, bad things, enemies, uncertainties, etc., it can tend to make us forget that the Lord is **“at hand”** and we distance ourselves from Him, and lose **“the peace of God.”**
 - We need to make sure we don’t let our mind wander off. Keep it stayed on God, remembering that He is greater than all troubles.

“...because he trusteth in thee.”

- When you trust the Lord, you will be able to keep your mind on Him instead of your trouble.
 - Men may let you down so that you don’t trust them.
 - God will never let you down. He is worthy of our trust. Trusting Him will bring you peace.