

Jesus Provides Peace

Introduction:

1. At a very difficult time, Jesus provided peace to His apostles (John 14:27; 16:33).
2. After the tragedy that occurred Monday, perhaps this is a good time for us to be reminded of the information revealed in Philippians 4:4-9.
 - a. These verses mention 2 special blessings that relate to peace.
 - b. These verses teach us how to receive these blessings.
 - c. These verses mention Paul's teaching and example.
3. Jesus continues to provide peace to those who apply this information.

Discussion:

- I. THESE VERSES MENTION 2 SPECIAL BLESSINGS THAT RELATE TO "PEACE"
 - A. The introduction to this letter (Philippians 1:1-2) shows that Paul wanted the Christians in Philippi to have "*peace*" from the Father and Christ.
 - B. In ch.4 Paul assured the Christians in Philippi that:
 1. "*the peace of God*" would keep their hearts and minds through Christ (vs.7)
 2. "*the God of peace*" would be with them (vs.9b).
 - C. We can have these blessings, but they are conditional (Colossians 3:15).
- II. THESE VERSES TEACH US HOW TO RECEIVE THESE SPECIAL BLESSINGS
 - A. (vs.4) We are instructed to "*rejoice:*"
 - a. "*in the Lord*" (3:1; Galatians 3:27)
 - b. "*always*" [at all times].
 1. To receive the blessings mentioned in vs.7 & 9, we must rejoice in the Lord always.
 2. This is something we are responsible for doing -- no one else can do it for us.
 - B. (vs.5) We are to let our "*moderation be known unto all men.*"
 1. Moderation: a forbearing, gentle, patient spirit
 2. This verse teaches us to practice "*moderation*" [forbearance] before others.
 3. To motivate us to practice forbearance, we are reminded that "*the Lord is at hand.*"
 4. Since the Lord is near, we must:
 - a. seek assistance from Him (Psalm 145:18-19)
 - b. look to His example and imitate it.
 5. To receive the blessings mentioned in vs.7 & 9, we must demonstrate a forbearing, gentle, and patient spirit toward all men.
 - C. (vs.6) We are to "*be careful [anxious] for nothing.*"
 1. The alternative to anxiety is found in vs.6b (also see 1 Peter 5:7).
 2. To receive the blessings mentioned in vs.7 & 9, we must avoid anxiety.
 - D. (vs.8) We must think on the right things.
 1. Think: to meditate, to let your mind dwell on, to carefully reflect upon
 2. We learn from Proverbs 23:7 why we must think on the right things -- "*as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.*"
 3. If we meditate upon things that fall under these categories, what kind of people will we be?
 4. To receive the blessings mentioned in vs.7 & 9, we must think on the right things.
- III. THESE VERSES MENTION PAUL'S TEACHING AND EXAMPLE
 - A. (vs.9a) Paul instructed the Christians in Philippi to do what he had taught them and to follow his example.
 - B. The example that Paul set in Philippi is seen in Acts 16:22-25.
 - C. Did Paul rejoice in the Lord, did he practice forbearance, did he avoid being anxious, and did he think on the right things?
 - D. Paul practiced what he preached, and Jesus gave Him peace.
 1. "*The peace of God*" that surpasses all understanding kept his heart and mind.
 2. "*The God of peace*" was with him.
 - E. To receive the peace that Jesus provides, let us follow Paul's teaching and example.