

GUARD YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS

(05/31/2020; Philippians 4:1-9; Steve Thiel; Christ Proclamation Church)

Sermon Theme: Only by faith in Christ can we guard our hearts and our minds to pursue unity and peace in our relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ as well as right thinking that leads to joy and peace, even in the midst of the most dark and difficult of circumstances.

I. BE UNIFIED IN THE GOSPEL – (4:1-3)

- A. Stand Firm in the Lord – (v.1)
- B. Pursue One Mind in the Gospel – (vv.2-3)
 - 1. Problem of Relational Disunity
 - 2. Solution of Gospel Priority

II. BE REJOICING IN THE LORD – (4:4-7)

- A. Rejoice in Christ Always – (v.4)
- B. Be Known for Being Reasonable – (v.5)
- C. Pray with Thanksgiving – (v.6)
- D. Experience the Peace of God – (v.7)

III. BE THINKING ON WHAT IS TRUE – (4:8-9)

- A. Pursue Right Thinking – (v.8)
- B. Practice Right Living – (v.9a)
- C. Experience the Peace of God – (v.9b)

OVERVIEW OF PHILIPPIANS

(Summary of Philippians; Fall 2014; Christ Proclamation Church; Steve Thiel)

Background of Philippians (Who wrote it, when, where, and to whom?)

The Apostle Paul wrote the book of Philippians (1:1) to the Gentile church which he planted at Philippi (Acts 16:6-40). The letter was written around 62 A.D. while he was imprisoned in Rome under house arrest (Acts 28:16-31).

Occasion of Philippians (What prompted Paul to write this letter?)

The Philippians sent Paul a gift carried by Epaphroditus (2:25; 4:18). Persecution (1:15-17, 28-29; 2:15; 3:2-3, 18-19) has also resulted in the division (2:3-5; 4:2-3), derailment (1:27), and despair (2:19-30) of these gospel-centered believers.

Purpose of Philippians (What did Paul hope to accomplish?)

Paul wrote to thank them for their generosity (1:3-6; 4:10-19) and to encourage them to stand firm in the faith despite current difficulties, including Paul's imprisonment, Epaphroditus' sickness, false teaching, and persecution.

Theme of Philippians (What is the letter about?)

Believers are to stand firm in their faith as a unified body despite opposition by centering their joy in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Outline of Philippians

I. Introduction (1:1-11)

- A. Personal Greetings (1:1-2)
- B. Heartfelt Thanksgiving and Prayer (1:3-11)

II. Exhortation to Stand Firm in the Faith (1:12-4:1)

- A. Despite Opposition – Paul's Imprisonment (1:12-2:30)
 - 1. By Paul's Example (1:12-26)
 - 2. By Paul's Exhortation (1:27-2:18)
 - 3. By Paul's Encouragement (2:19-30)
- B. Despite Opposition – False Teachers (3:1-4:1)
 - 1. By Rejoicing in the Lord (3:1)
 - 2. By Rejecting Heresy (3:2-16)
 - 3. By Following Paul's Example (3:17-4:1)
- C. Summary Exhortations (4:2-9)
 - 1. Be Unified in the Gospel (4:2-3)
 - 2. Be Rejoicing in the Lord (4:4-7)
 - 3. Be Meditating on what Is True (4:8-9)

III. Conclusion (4:10-23)

- A. Heartfelt Thanksgiving (4:10-20)
- B. Personal Greetings (4:21-23)