

Monday, April 20, 2020

Turn off the outside “noise” for a couple of minutes and consider this message from God’s Word.
I am praying that it calms your spirit and encourages your heart.

PHILIPPIANS 4:8-9 (TNIV)

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters,
whatever is **true**, whatever is **noble**, whatever is **right**,
whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **admirable** —
if anything is **excellent** or **praiseworthy** —
think about such things.

⁹ Whatever you have **learned**
or **received**
or **heard** from me,
or **seen** in me—
put it into practice.

And **THE GOD OF PEACE** will be ***with*** you.

— PART 12 —

*I found that when a passage of Scripture has been very familiar to me for a long time — such as this passage! — if I will simply **slow down** . . . take my time . . . and read thoughtfully and reflectively, it can become alive to me in new and fresh ways.*

We get to **CHOOSE** what we allow our minds to **FOCUS** on. And Paul encourages us to ***concentrate our attention*** on some very specific things.

Today we conclude our walk through Philippians 4:4-9! Yesterday we saw that in these final two verses (Phil. 4:8-9), Paul summons us to both **“RIGHT THINKING”** (to focus on excellent and praiseworthy things) — and to **“RIGHT DOING”** (putting into practice what they have learned from Paul)...***making the point “that right thinking (4:8) will lead to right doing (v. 9).”***

GRANT R. OSBORNE, *Philippians Verse by Verse* (Osborne New Testament Commentaries)

Whatever you have **learned**
or **received**
or **heard** from me,
or **seen** in me—
put it into practice.

And **THE GOD OF PEACE** will be with you.

“What the Philippians **‘LEARNED’** refers explicitly to Paul’s teaching;

what they **‘RECEIVED’** involves him handing down the traditions he had received from the apostles and from the Lord himself...

What the believers **‘SAW’** refers back to Paul’s time in Philippi (Acts 16:11-40) and

his model of suffering, dedication to the Lord, and love for the Philippian people.

What they ‘**HEARD**’ was not only his teaching but also other letters he had sent and the reports about his exploits they would have heard from time to time.”

Because Paul embodied these virtues in the midst of extreme suffering, he had a right to instruct his churches to “**PUT [THEM] INTO PRACTICE.**”

GRANT R. OSBORNE, *Philippians Verse by Verse* (Osborne New Testament Commentaries)

And what will **RESULT** if we both “*think about these things*” (v. 8) and “*put into practice*” what Paul had modeled in his life and teaching?

“**THE GOD OF PEACE**
will be *with* you.” (v. 9b)

“Paul often uses this title (‘God of peace’) to describe the presence and power of God (Rom 15:33; 16:20; 2 Cor 13:11). **When we truly live for Christ and exemplify him in our lives, the God who brings peace and is peace becomes present with us through the Spirit (1:19, 27; 2:1; 3:3).**”

GRANT R. OSBORNE, *Philippians Verse by Verse* (Osborne New Testament Commentaries)

And I guess that makes sense — because in v. 4 Paul had said that if we turn our problems into praises and prayers, then the **RESULT** would be:

...**THE PEACE OF GOD,**
which transcends all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds
IN CHRIST JESUS.

I think we want BOTH these gifts, don’t you? **THE PEACE OF GOD** that comes *from* **THE GOD OF PEACE!** And so we pray.

∴

Abba Father, we praise you that you **are THE GOD OF PEACE . . .**

so we ask you to **fill** us today **THE PEACE OF GOD . . .**

which will guard our hearts and our minds

as we live **IN CHRIST JESUS!**

Pastor Doug

P.S. We would love to hear from you! How are you doing right now? And we would love to pray for you! Email us at info@bethanyonline.net

P.P.S. Keep checking our “ENCOURAGEMENT FOR TODAY” webpage — we will try to post fresh encouragement **every day** during this crisis!

P.P.P.S. And watch our **LIVE-STREAM Worship Service** this coming Sunday at 10:30 A.M. for more encouragement.