

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS

Phil 3:20 - 4:7

Liptovský Hrádok, 29 June 2014

Phil 3:20 - 4:7 ἡμῶν γὰρ τὸ πολίτευμα ἐν οὐρανοῖς ὑπάρχει, ἐξ οὗ καὶ σωτῆρα ἀπεκδεχόμεθα κύριον Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν, ²¹ ὃς μετασχηματίζει τὸ σῶμα τῆς ταπεινώσεως ἡμῶν σύμμορφον τῷ σώματι τῆς δόξης αὐτοῦ κατὰ τὴν ἐνέργειαν τοῦ δύνασθαι αὐτὸν καὶ ὑποτάξει αὐτῷ τὰ πάντα. ^{BNT 4:1} Ὡστε, ἀδελφοί μου ἀγαπητοὶ καὶ ἐπιπόθητοι, χαρὰ καὶ στέφανός μου, οὕτως στήκετε ἐν κυρίῳ, ἀγαπητοί. ² Εὐδοίαν παρακαλῶ καὶ Συντύχην παρακαλῶ τὸ αὐτὸ φρονεῖν ἐν κυρίῳ. ³ καὶ ἐρωτῶ καὶ σέ, γνήσιε σύζυγε, συλλαμβάνου αὐταῖς, αἵτινες ἐν τῷ εὐαγγελίῳ συνήλθασάν μοι μετὰ καὶ Κλήμεντος καὶ τῶν λοιπῶν συνεργῶν μου, ὧν τὰ ὀνόματα ἐν βίβλῳ ζωῆς. ⁴ Χαίρετε ἐν κυρίῳ πάντοτε· πάλιν ἐρῶ, χαίρετε. ⁵ τὸ ἐπιεικὲς ὑμῶν γνωσθήτω πᾶσιν ἀνθρώποις. ὁ κύριος ἐγγύς. ⁶ μηδὲν μεριμνᾶτε, ἀλλ' ἐν παντὶ τῇ προσευχῇ καὶ τῇ δεήσει μετὰ εὐχαριστίας τὰ αἰτήματα ὑμῶν γνωρίζεσθω πρὸς τὸν θεόν. ⁷ καὶ ἡ εἰρήνη τοῦ θεοῦ ἢ ὑπερέχουσα πάντα νοῦν φρουρήσει τὰς καρδίας ὑμῶν καὶ τὰ νοήματα ὑμῶν ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.

^{NAU Phil 3:20 - 4:7} For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; ²¹ who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself. **4:1** Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved. ² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord. ³ Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. ⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

0. INTRODUCTION: CHRISTIAN JOY IN EVERYDAY LIFE

0.1. THE IMPORTANCE OF JOY

- Rejoice (Χαίρετε) → a Greek greeting
- **Ps 37:4** דְּבַר לֵב מְשִׁיבֵי דְלִבְיָהוּ עַל-עֲנַתָּהּ (κατατρυφήσουσιν τοῦ κυρίου → οἱ δὲ πραεῖς κληρονομήσουσιν γῆν καὶ κατατρυφήσουσιν ἐπὶ πλήθει εἰρήνης)
- **Neh 8:10** כִּי-יְהִי לְיָהוּדִים מְשִׁיבֵי

0.1.1. THE CHARACTER OF THE CHRISTIAN JOY

- relationship with the Father → “Abba!”
- John 15:10-11 If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

Joy is neither happiness nor brightness, joy is literally the nature of God in my blood, no matter what happens.¹

The Bible talks plentifully about joy, but it nowhere talks about a “happy Christian.” Happiness depends on what happens; joy does not. Remember, Jesus Christ had joy, and He prays “that they might have My joy fulfilled in themselves.”²

0.1.2. THE KEY TO JOYFUL LIVING: THE LORD IS NEAR

- “The Lord is near” – the key expression
- near – in time (Phil 3:21!) → “Rejoice in the Lord!” = names in heaven {Luke 10:20} verse 3:

^{NIV Phil 3:20 - 4:7} But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. **4:1** Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends! →

¹ CHAMBERS, O. *The Psychology of Redemption*, p. 1102.

² CHAMBERS, O. *Run Today's Race*, p. 1145. (26 June)

[² I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.]

→ ⁴ **Rejoice** in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- near – in space (dealing with people’s problems) = the Lord is nearer than people and their problems!
- **John 14:17-18** *He is the Spirit of truth*. The world is unable to receive Him because it doesn't see Him or know Him. But you do know Him, because He *remains with* you and *will be in* you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.
- the source of joy: hope for the GREAT TRANSFORMATION
= life of a Christian is characterized by waiting for Jesus’ second coming and for heaven

0.2. THE CONTEXT

0.2.1. YOUR WAITING FOR PAROUSIA – THE LORD

- **Phil 4:1** ...**SO THEN**, in this way, my dearly loved brothers, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord, dear friends. ...
 - **Lk 12:36** ~ You must be like people waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet so that when he comes and knocks, they can open *the door* for him at once.

0.2.2. RELATIONSHIPS WHILE WAITING – THE PEOPLE

- **Phil 4:2** I urge **Euodia** and I urge Syntyche to agree in the Lord. ⇒ sometimes relationships can cause us struggles with rejoicing
 - **Mt 5:23-24** So if you are offering your gift on the altar, and there you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift.
- responsibility of fellow Christians → **Phil 4:3** ...help these women...

0.2.3. KEEPING FIT

- joy → the Lord is near (Observe the future, which exhibits the consideration given to the matter by the writer³)
- peace → the Lord cares

1. THE LORD IS NEAR

- **Ps 119:151** ἐγγύς εἰ σύ κύριε καὶ πᾶσαι αἱ ἐντολαί σου ἀλήθεια
- **Ps 31:19-20** Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you and worked for those **who take refuge in you**, in the sight of the children of mankind! ²⁰ ***In the cover of your presence you hide them*** from the plots of men; you store them in your shelter from the strife of tongues.
- Here, the saints are enjoined to deal with every trying circumstance of life as those who know, and act upon, the fact that "the Lord thinketh on me" (Psal. xl. 17). → **Ps 40:17** I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me.

2. THE LORD IS NEARER THAN PEOPLE

→ τὸ ἐπιεικὲς “big heartedness” (gentleness)

= we do need to be truthful, but in love/gentleness/big heartedness

2.1. DISAGREEMENTS

- Euodia & Syntyche – disagreement; → think “the same” in the Lord
- disunity → thinking *out* of the Lord

³ MEYER, W. *Critical and Exegetical Commentary*, p. 198

2.2. FAILURES

- **Phil 4:3** ...help these women...
- **Mt 5:9** Blessed *are* the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.

3. THE LORD IS NEARER THAN MY ANXIETIES

→ ἡ εἰρήνη τοῦ θεοῦ ἡ ὑπερέχουσα πάντα νοῦν ()

3.1. DON'T WORRY!

- do not *trouble* yourself about things – but pray! (**Matt 6:25** μὴ μεριμνᾶτε τῇ ψυχῇ ὑμῶν)
- (**1Pt 5:7** casting all your care (μέριμναν) upon Him, because He cares about you. (αὐτῷ μέλει περὶ ὑμῶν)
- **Luke 12:25-26** τίς δὲ ἐξ ὑμῶν μεριμνῶν δύναται ἐπὶ τὴν ἡλικίαν αὐτοῦ προσθεῖναι πῆχυν (add a cubit) 26 εἰ οὖν οὐδὲ ἐλάχιστον δύνασθε, τί περὶ τῶν λοιπῶν μεριμνᾶτε

3.2. GOD KNOWS ABOUT YOU!

- prayer – getting assurance of His care **Matt 6:8** ...your Father knows the things you need before you ask Him.

4. THE LORD IS NEARER THAN MY PRESENT LIFE

→ πάλιν ἐρῶ, χαίρετε!

- **Ps 63:3** ...your steadfast love is better **than life**... (אֲהַבְתִּי מִלֶּחֶם בְּחַיִּים)

4.1. THE BOOK OF LIFE (4:3)

- Luke 10:20! – joy of *success* ↔ joy of *acceptance* in heaven
- **Col 3:3** ...your life is hidden with the Messiah in God

4.2. PEACE OF GOD GUARDING MIND (4:7)

- **1Pt 1:13** gird up the loins of your mind (ἀναζωσάμενοι τὰς ὀσφύας τῆς διανοίας ὑμῶν)
- the Spirit in you (Παράκλητος)
- **2Cor 10:4-5** ...We destroy arguments ⁵ and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, (**2 Cor 10:4-5** ...λογισμοὺς καθαιροῦντες ⁵ καὶ πᾶν ὕψωμα ἐπαίρομεν κατὰ τῆς γνώσεως τοῦ θεοῦ, καὶ αἰχμαλωτίζοντες πᾶν νόημα εἰς τὴν ὑπακοὴν τοῦ Χριστοῦ,)

5. CONCLUSIONS

- The joy of the Lord comes from his presence.
- The joy in the Lord shows in your relationships.
- The joy of the Lord is deeper than my deepest thoughts.