

First, this message...

Upcoming Wednesday night presentations:

- A. Hanging out w/ Jesus
2 textbooks
Wed. of Jan 13th, 20th, 27th, Feb 24th
- B. Studying the Bible – Wed. of March 2nd, 9th, 16th
- C. The Art of Teaching – Wed. of March 23rd,
30th, April 6th, 13th

It's been a while...

- Presents very personal motivation
- All things as liabilities compared to knowing Christ
- Amazing statements:
 - -Laying hold of that for which Christ Jesus laid hold of him
 - -forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead.
 - -sets himself up as a standard to follow

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Deductive vs. Inductive

Deductive reasoning:

- start with a concept or point
- provide proof to support that point

Inductive reasoning:

- start with looking at specific points
- come to a conclusion based upon those points.

Both are valid methods of reasoning.

2

Phil. 3:17ff

Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. Phil. 4:1 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved. .

5

Philippians... an overview

- Written to church in Philippi - circa 62 AC
- 11th book in NT
- Paul visited on his 2nd missionary journey - 49-51 AD
- Documented in Acts 16
- Letter initiated in response to a gift brought by Epaphroditus
- Written during 2 years of Roman house arrest
- Paul's thank you note to the Philippians

3

Comparison... WE need to be careful who we compare...

Enemies	Citizens
End is destruction	End is Transformation
god is their belly	await a Savior
Glory in their shame	transform our body of shame
Earthly mindset	(Kingdom mindset)

By the power...

6

For this reason...

Stand Firm!

Steko – to stand, to persist, to persevere – in one's fellowship with the Lord.

7

Rejoice!

Chairo: to be cheer-filled, calmly happy or well-off; be glad; be joyful; to be well, to thrive.

Used as a salutation: “Khah'-ee-ro”!!

Apparently, Paul was a pretty happy guy...
... and wanted to make sure every one else was, too...

10

Phil. 4:4ff

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, 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 understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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Adding to the concept of being joyful always... (in the Lord):

4:5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand.

Epiekes: Reasonableness: fairness, gentleness, moderation, patient, unselfishness, sweet reasonableness, forbearance, being satisfied with less than your due,

Reasonableness is a symptom of Rejoicing...

Motivation: “His coming may occur at any moment”

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Rejoice!

Rejoice – in the Lord – seems *very* important to Paul...

(about to be deductive...)

- used the term 35 times:
- Rejoice in hope (Rom 12:12)
- Rejoice in our sufferings (Rom 5:3)
- Finally brothers, rejoice (2Cor 13:11)
- Finally my brothers, rejoice in the Lord (Phil 3:1)
- I rejoice in the Lord greatly ... (Phil 4:4)
- I rejoice in my sufferings (Col 1:24)
- Rejoice always (1Th 5:16)

9

Unbelievably bold promise...

4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, 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 understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

...but is this promise *for us*???

12

Don't be anxious. Period.

Anxious:

-*merimnao*: to have care, to take thought, anxious, solicitous

-about anything – is added.

“Do not be anxious but in everything...”

13

AND the Peace of God...

Effect defined: surpasses *all* understanding -

-surpasses: *hyperecho*: to rise above as supreme

-all: *pas*: all, every, the whole, the entire,

-understanding: *nous*: the intellect, the mind, the intellect faculty, comprising alike the faculties of perceiving and understanding and those of feeling, judging, determine; hence specifically, a. the intellective faculty, the understanding.

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So, what do we do instead?

Prayer

Worship

Devotion

Relationship

No demands

Supplication

Cry for personal needs

specific request

Request

Request

So, which one is *with Thanksgiving*?

14

What will the Peace of God do?

Guard your Hearts and Minds...

-guard: *phroureo*: Lit: 'to stare ahead with open eyes; to be a watcher in advance, to mount guard as a sentinel (post spies at gates), to hem in, protect, to guard, watch with a military guard, to keep in a state of settlement and security.

-hearts: *kardia* – regarded as the seat of feeling, impulse, affection, desire; the seat and center of all physical and spiritual life;

-mind: *noema*: - the intellect, the understanding, the mind; the organ of mental perception – that which thinks.

-in: *en*: a primary preposition denoting a fixed position in place, time or state.

17

AND...

Kai...

Gk cumulative participle

you do this.... AND this will happen...

... you *don't* to this....

15

A little less obvious...

- No promise as to the outcome of the supplication.

-The Location of our guarded hearts and minds.

Qualifiers to the promise.

18

FINALLY. (but not really...)

Phil 4:8, 9:

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

19

Practice makes...

Practice (our job): execute, exercise, be busy w/, carry on, perform repeatedly or habitually:

- what you have learned
- what you've received
- what you've heard
- what you've seen in me.

Who's the 'me'?
What does this mean for us?

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Definition of terms...

- true – not concealed, worthy of credit,
- honorable – venerable, worship-able, reputable, serious, dignified, august
- just – equitable, fair, innocent, holy, upright, righteous
- pure – chaste, modest, innocent, blameless, properly clean, modest,
- lovely – friendly, grateful, acceptable, pleasing, agreeable, friendly towards
- commendable – of good omen, auspicious, laudable, reputable, well reported of,
- if there is any:
- excellence – goodness, good quality of any kind, moral goodness, eminent endowment, manliness (valor), virtue.
- worthy of praise – applause, honor paid, approval, fame, a commendable thing

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If we do our part, a Promise...

The God of Peace will be with you.

Meta: together w/; on the same side.

Not works gospel, but preparation for reception.

- We get:
- The Peace of God
- And...
- The God of Peace

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What to THINK about?

To Think!

Our job: count, calculate, enumerate, ponder, reckon, consider, compute, take inventory, estimate,

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Today's takeaway...

- We have excellent reasons to Stand Firm.
- We have excellent reasons to Rejoice.
- We need to know/do our part which opens us up to receiving from God:
 - Peace from God
 - The God of Peace

The Lord's blessing is there. We get to place ourselves in a situation where we can *receive*:
Stand, anxious-not, relationship, ask-thankful, THINK, practice.

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