**First Baptist Church Taylorsville**

**May 26, 2019**

 ***[Pressing Onward: Don’t Worry ~~Be Happy~~ Rejoice]***

**Philippians 4: 4-7**

**Introduction**

Because we live in a fallen world that is still under the curse of sin, the temptation of stress, worry, anxiety, and fear for the future will be present in our lives.

Just as conflict is destructive to the unity of the church (last week’s sermon), anxiousness can also be destructive to our personal\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.

The tendency for us all is when we are focused on the *thing* that causes us anxiety, fear, or worry, then our eyes are not focused on Jesus and that ultimately robs us of our joy.

**Verse 4**

First, to curve our joy stealing anxiety, Paul tells us we must \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord.

Rejoicing in the Lord is a resolve to trust who God is, what He has done, what He is doing, and what He will do on your behalf.

Rejoicing in the Lord also means we personally consider and think about how God saved us from our sin.

**Verse 5**

The word reasonableness here means to put other’s needs above your own.

Living this way evidences that our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is in God.

The phrase *the Lord is at hand* is telling us as God’s people, the Lord is near to us, close to us, especially when our hearts are troubled and worrisome.

**Verse 6**

The word anxious is translated as a vivid word picture that carries the idea of being pulled in different directions by our worries, hopes and fears.

In Christ, we are not to be troubled or anxious about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but instead, we are to bring \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to God in prayer.

When we come the Lord in prayer, we acknowledge our utter \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on Him and express our complete \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Him.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the action of asking or begging for something earnestly or humbly.

We are also told to make our specific \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ known to God because He cares for each one of those personally.

Our prayers are also to be accompanied with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because a thankful heart is a really an acknowledgement of dependence.

**Verse 7**

True \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ only comes from God.

In the midst of, and in the face of our deepest worries and anxieties, we keep on believing in the promises of God and the word of Christ.

The peace that Christ leaves with us is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit (the comforter and helper).

**Application**

The word of God does not simply say to us “don’t worry be happy”. Instead, it says “don’t worry and here is how”.

First, rejoice. Be resolved to trust who God is, what He has done, what He is doing, and what He will do in your life.

Secondly, trust God with the outcome. Know He is in control, and like a loving Father, He has your best in mind

Thirdly, know the Lord is close and near to you. He is not distant like the so-called gods of other religions. He is not an armchair expert. No, your Christ felt the same temptations and despair as you do. He was ‘a man of sorrows and familiar with grief’. He is near His people and close during their suffering, fear, and worry.

Fourthly, pray to God and make your requests known to Him. Do it with thanksgiving and gratitude. Know every good and perfect gift comes from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

Lastly, trust that the peace of God will guard your hearts. Keep believing in Christ and God and in His promises, His work, and the gift of the comforter - the Holy Spirit.

Friends, if you do not know Christ personally as your savior, you will never know true peace because He is the source.

Do you know Him today?

Do you believe Him today?

Blanks: joy; rejoice; trust; anything & everything; dependence & trust; supplication; requests; thanksgiving; peace; gift.