

Text: Philippians 4:4-7
Topic: Joy. Christmas.
Series: none

Focal Point Radio Ministries

December 18 & 19, 2004

Message # 04-38

Pastor Mike

A Real “Merry” Christmas

Genuine Joy & Peace Regardless of Your December Challenges



This Christmas...

1. Choose _____ (v.4)

This Christmas...

2. Hang _____ (v.5)

This Christmas...

3. Hand _____ (vv.6-7)

Philippians 4:4-7

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. (NIV)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's message. It is also helpful to discuss your answers with others. This can take place with friends, your family, accountability partners, or ministry groups within the church.

1. What are some of the pressures and stresses that are usually added to your life during the Christmas season?

How well have you traditionally been at maintaining your joy and a good attitude during December?

2. What will you do to remind yourself to regularly make the conscious choice that is called for in Philippians 4:4?

3. Read Hebrews 13:5. What substitutes for God's presence and God's favor do you tend to seek?

Read Hebrews 13:6. What anxieties and fears would be relieved in your life if you truly sensed that God's favor and protection rested on your life and your future?

4. Read 1 Peter 5:7. What are some of the "cares" that you need to cast on God today?

Write out a prayer that expresses your confidence that God will guard your heart and mind with his peace as you follow the prescription in Philippians 4:4-9.

Read through the Bible in a year! Here is this week's schedule.

Sunday

Habakkuk & Rev. 10

Monday

Zeph. 1-2 & Rev. 11

Tuesday

Zeph. 3 & Rev. 12

Wednesday

Haggai & Rev. 13

Thursday

Zech. 1-2 & Rev. 14

Friday

Zech. 3-4 & Rev. 15

Saturday

Zech. 5-6 & Rev. 16

Here are some resources which may help you understand and apply the truths presented in this week's sermon.

Bridges, Jerry. **The Joy of Fearing God**. Waterbrook Press, 1999.

Chapell, Bryan. **Holiness by Grace: Delighting in the Joy That Is Our Strength**. Crossway Books, 2001.

DeMoss, Nancy. **The Attitude of Gratitude: Developing a Thankful Heart**. Life Action Ministries, 2000.

Henry, Matthew. **The Pleasantness of a Religious Life: A Puritan's View of the Good Life**. Christian Focus, 1998.

Johnson, Barbara. **Stick a Geranium in Your Hat and Be Happy**. Word Publishing, 1990.

Lloyd-Jones, Martyn. **A Life of Joy and Peace: An Exposition of Philippians**. Baker Books, 1995.

_____. **Spiritual Depression: Its Causes and Cure**. Eerdmans, 1965.

Lutz, Susan. **Thankfulness: Even When It Hurts**. P & R, 2002.

Ortberg, John. **Gifts: The Joy of Serving God**. Zondervan, 2000.

Spurgeon, Charles. **Power in Praising God**. Whitaker House, 1998.

Swindoll, Charles. **Laugh Again**. Word Publishing, 1991.

Taylor, Hudson, et al. **Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret**. Reprint, Moody Press, 1987.

Wilson, Doug. **Joy at the End of the Tether: The Inscrutable Wisdom of Ecclesiastes**. Canon Press, 1999.