

## Exploring the Peace of God

"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." -Philippians 4:8

The concept of inner peace sometimes seems elusive in our modern society. Beyond, the everyday peccadilloes of life, flat tires, late school buses... On top of these regular little annoyances, many of us have the additional care of being professional worriers. You know these types! We are the individuals who worry if there is not enough to worry about!

When Paul was writing to the Church of Philippi, he offers a different option for how believers at this house church might live their lives. Keep in mind that these are seasoned believers and mature Christians. In fact, Paul uses this economically challenged church to be an example of Christian giving and fellowship (koinonia) for the more socially-affluent believers gathered at Corinth (2 Cor 8: 1-5 and 9:1-5). Although they are seasoned believers, Paul still admonishes them to mind the things they choose to ruminate on. In doing so, Paul also reminds us of how difficult it can be to live counter-cultural in a secular world.

Paul therefore gives all believers this important reminder on what it takes to maintain peace in our daily living. He writes, keep your minds focused on "whatever is pure, lovely, praiseworthy..." (See Philippians 4:8,9) In essence, Paul is saying choose to focus on joy! No, this does not mean that everything happens to us will be joyful. However, when we choose to intentionally focus on the joy that God has placed in our lives and we endeavor to walk worthy of being called His disciples, then Scripture promises us that "the God of peace will be with you." (Philippians 4: 9). My prayer for you this week is that you will, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God..." (Philippians 4: 6) That you would choose to focus on the small miracles of God's hand that are already around you and, in doing so, I pray that the God of PEACE will dwell in you richly!

Remaining In His Light,

Rev. Rae