

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Can we be too content? Can contentment turn to apathy?
2. How will “thinking on these things” in verse 8 help a believer?
3. What does it mean to be “careful for nothing”?
4. How can there be growth in a believer’s attitude?

SUMMARY:

The ability to attain proper attitudes must be cultivated. Begin by thinking on “*Whatsoever things are true ... honest ... just ... pure ... lovely ... of good report.*” Under no circumstances must we permit the destructive forces of evil to take possession of our hearts. Anything that is of value is worth striving for. You cannot buy joy, peace and contentment, but you can through the grace of God strive, “*by pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*”

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #5

November 3, 2019

Fourth Quarter

CHRISTIAN ATTITUDES

LESSON TEXT: *Philippians 4:1-23*

LESSON SETTING: While in prison, Paul writes to the Philippians about unity, joy, and peace with God.

TIME: Approximately 64 A.D.

I. JOY Philippians 4:1-4

- A. In Accomplishment (vs. 1) Deuteronomy 12:7; Matthew 25:21
- B. In Tribulation (vs. 3) Acts 5:41; Hebrews 10:34; 1 Peter 4:12, 13; John 16:22
- C. In God’s Promises (vs. 4) Luke 10:20; Romans 5:2; Matthew 25:34

II. PEACE Philippians 4:5-9

- A. Through Faith (vs. 6) Romans 5:1
- B. Through Prayer (vs. 6) Job 22:21
- C. By Correct Thinking and Doing (vs. 7-9) Isaiah 26:3; Colossians 3:15; Philippians 4:9

III. CONTENTMENT Philippians 4:10-23

- A. A Great Lesson (vs. 11, 12) 1 Timothy 6:8; Hebrews 13:5
- B. A Source of Strength (vs. 13) 2 Corinthians 9:8; 12:9
- C. A Great Gain (vs. 18, 19) 1 Timothy 6:6; Hebrews 13:5; Psalm 23:1

GOLDEN TEXT: *NOT THAT I SPEAK IN RESPECT OF WANT: FOR I HAVE LEARNED, IN WHATSOEVER STATE I AM, THEREWITH TO BE CONTENT.* Philippians 4:11

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Acts 17:1-14

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Deuteronomy 6:3-15;
1 & 2 Thessalonians

QUARTERLY THEME: Life and Writings of Paul

TOPIC: EFFECTS OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCTION:

As Paul traveled from town to town, being filled with the Holy Spirit, he evidently was able to explain the Scriptures with great patience as our lesson says "*and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures.*" He presented the necessity of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection and as a result many believed.

Just prior to this Paul had seen the hand of God in many ways. The Holy Spirit had directed him to proceed to certain cities and told him not to go to others. He had a vision to go to Macedonia to preach and it was there that Lydia, the seller of purple, received the message of salvation along with her whole household, and they were converted.

It was also just prior to our present lesson setting that Paul healed the girl who was possessed by an evil spirit. Because of this Paul and Silas were cast into prison, and while they sang praises to God at midnight, the earthquake came and their stocks were opened, the doors were unbarred, and they again were free.

It was this sequence of events that strengthened Paul's faith. He saw the hand of God work daily in his life, he was being prepared for the more difficult tasks that were to come.

CENTRAL TRUTH: The gospel of Christ always brings men to the point of decision—to accept Christ or reject Him.

GOLDEN TEXT: . . . *THESE THAT HAVE TURNED THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN ARE COME HITHER ALSO.*

Acts 17:6

These words reveal that a complete change in the lives of those who believed the message of the gospel was recognized by the unbelieving Jews. However, as obvious as it was to the unbelievers that a change had taken place, it could not be understood. This is not unusual, but rather this is always the case that unbelievers think only in terms of things of the world and cannot understand the things of the Spirit, unless they become enlightened by the Spirit.

We can also expect to be considered odd, strange or peculiar if we tell the simple gospel message, but there will also be some who are willing to listen to the message that brings love, joy, peace, and eternal life.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF November 4 – 10

M. Teach the Word to Children. Deuteronomy 6:3-15

T. The Word Speaks to Youth. Proverbs 3:1-12

W. The Word Speaks to Adults. Proverbs 27:1-12

T. Properly Receiving the Word. Matthew 13:18-23

F. *The Gospel: Accepted and Rejected. Acts 17:1-14

S. Stability through the Word. 2 Thessalonians 3:1-15

S. Living By the Word. 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

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