

Main Point: Peace is Here & Near

- 1. What is biblical Peace?**
 - 2. How is Peace Here? (Already)**
 - 3. How is Peace Near? (Not yet)**
 - 4. How do we receive this Peace? Christ is here & Christ is near.**
- *What does this mean for you?**

INTRO-Our Context

Theme: *"The chief theme of Philippians is encouragement: Paul wants to encourage the Philippians to live out their lives as citizens of a heavenly colony, as evidenced by a growing commitment to service to God and to one another. The way of life that Paul encourages was manifested uniquely in Jesus Christ."*¹

We are a pretty healthy church, not perfect, because Rick is here, otherwise... Because, not just Rick, but all of us bring a human sinful aspect to our gathering, yet despite this, we love God and each other pretty well.

So, in this Advent series called "Hear & Near" like Paul, I want to encourage us to continue keep on keepin' on.

*He is above all concerned that the Philippians continue to make progress in their faith (1:25). Paul explains what spiritual progress will look like. Christian maturity does not come through special mystical insights available to only a few, but rather through the patient practice of the familiar virtues of love and service to others.*²

And so, we pick up Pauls conversation as he explains what spiritual progress looks like in Phil. 4. as we seek to answer our first question,

1. What is biblical peace?

¹ ESV Study Bible, pg. 2275

² Ibid

Why biblical peace? Because not all 'peace' is the same.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.
John 14:27

Biblical Peace is tied to the word, Shalom; all things as they ought to be. So it begs the question, when circumstances, as they often are, NOT as they ought to be, how can we have peace?

Because we have eyes to see that OUR GOD IS IN CONTROL. AND HE IS GOOD. AND HE IS FOR US, therefore, we look beyond what is seemingly unfavorable and TRUST that God is WORKING and that ultimately it is, or will be, as it ought to be.

This is why our text says, "and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding..."

What is biblical peace?

Trusting God enough to sit down in ones heart.

*"Of these the most placid lake, hidden in the hills and reflecting the sunshine and shadows, is a remarkable illustration. So the peace Christ leaves is power to hold the wildest fear in pause, to still a clamor or hush a cry—it is the coming of mercy to a sense of sin, of life to the fear of death."*³

Trusting God enough to sit down in ones heart.

This begins to answer our second question; **How is Peace Here?**

Advent: It's the season that holds a 2 fold celebration; Christ has come, and he is coming again! Peace is here and now because Christ is Here. He is with us.

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14

³ Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Ed.). (1909). *St. John* (Vol. 2, p. 230). London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company.

Immanuel means "God with us",

Read vs. 9b, "and the God of peace will be with you"

How is Peace Here?

Peace is here because Christ is here.

Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. Eph. 3:17 (NLT)

GOSPEL-Already... But not yet. The fullness of this peace is not yet realized.

How is Peace Near? Read vs. 5b

"The Lord is at hand" Peace is near because Christ is near.

Help them see that the Master is about to arrive. He could show up any minute!⁴ Phil. 4:5, (The Message)

Jesus is coming again! **"Jesus is Coming, Look Busy"**

We have HOPE because Christ is here & near AND we have PEACE because Christ is here and near.

How do we receive this Peace?

1. Believe

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Colossians 3:15

Remember Paul's purpose for writing our text. *"to encourage the Philippians to **live out** their lives as citizens of a heavenly colony"*. This involves obedience. BE THANKFUL

⁴ Peterson, E. H. (2005). *The Message: the Bible in contemporary language* (Php 4:5).

PICTURE OF SCRIPTURE, commands in blue, promises in orange. This does not mean our peace is dependent on our obedience, yet our experience of it will be realized as we walkLive in obedience, “Live out” of who we really are.

Read Vs. 4 & 5

#2. Rejoice x2

-But it's not a forcible 'rejoicing', it's 'reasonable'; *pertaining to being gracious and forbearing*⁵

-Pastor, “HEY BROTHER”. It's not forced or inauthentic, but instead anchored to the promises and sovereignty of God.

Read Vs. 6

#3. Pray

a. Do not be anxious,
casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

Greek word study on “anxious”, The theological dictionary of the NT *to cast one's care on God does not mean to think of Him as the One who guarantees one's wishes, but to see in Him the One who knows what we need better than we do ourselves.*⁶

Trusting God enough to sit down in ones heart.

1. Replace anxiety with prayer, but not just any prayer, thankfulness!

-Story of prayer walk and praise

This is a promise when we “live out” these things→ **Read vs. 7**

#4. Think

Read vs. 8

⁵ Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains*, Vol. 1, p. 748)

⁶ Bultmann, R. (1964–). [μεριμνάω, προμεριμνάω, μέριμνα, ἀμέριμος](#). G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley, & G. Friedrich (Eds.), *Theological dictionary of the New Testament* (electronic ed., Vol. 4, p. 591). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

#5. Practice

Read vs. 9

What does this mean for you?

**PEACE IS HERE AND PEACE IS NEAR BECAUSE CHRIST IS HERE &
NEAR THEREFORE...**

Believe 2. Rejoice 3. Pray 4. Think 5. Practice

ADVENT LIGHTING / COMMUNION

OFFERING

PRAYER & PRAISE





RESPOND IN WORSHIP






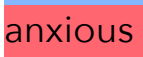

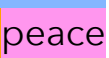


Main Point Peace is here, peace is near

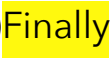

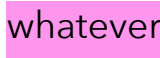
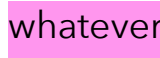

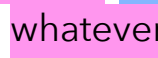
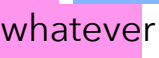
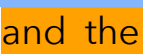

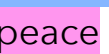
Key Words Whatever 6x, Peace 2x, Rejoice 2x

Key Verse Vs. 7

FCF Anxious

 God  General  Key Words  Command  Truth  Sin

(4)  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.

(8)  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.

Philippians 4:4-9