

# Philippians

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Preacher: Knight, Ebenezer (1908 - 1990)

[ 0 : 00 ] Let's turn to chapter 4 in Paul's epistle to the Philippians.

Chapter 4 in Paul's epistle to the Philippians, verse 4. I'll read verses 4 to 7.

Chapter 4, Paul's epistle to the Philippians, verse 4. Rejoice in the Lord our way. And again I say, rejoice.

Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing. But in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

[ 1 : 18 ] Now as you are aware, those of you who were here this morning, we spoke or read in the Psalms of a time when God's ancient people did rejoice in the Lord their God on a special occasion.

And we made the remark that it is good when we can look back on those Ebenezers we have set up in God's name.

And we can rejoice in the Lord their God on a special occasion. And we can rejoice that he's heard and answered our prayers. But even more than rejoicing that he has heard and answered our prayers, we rejoice in the fact that that same covenant keeping God still lives.

And in all the glory of his attributes, he is ever the same. Jesus Christ, the same yesterday and today and forever.

That glorious God who was, is and ever shall be eternally the same. Now within the context of the psalm this morning, we spoke of God's power and majesty and what a mercy it was to know that that God is on the throne.

[ 2 : 49 ] And I think that is the essence of this word of exhortation which the Apostle Paul brings to the Philippian church in the words we've read as a text.

Where he exhorts them to rejoice in the Lord. Something more than being merely happy for the time being. But to rejoice in the knowledge of what we know as Christians.

That our times are in the hand of this God. And that our God is in the heaven of God. Ruling over all. My dear friend, think of the future.

Try to think of the future without a God. And then think of the future. Knowing that everything in your life. Down to a hair of your head.

Is all controlled by him. Come down as small as you will. God is there. Then go to the great nations of the earth.

[ 4 : 00 ] The whole universe. The moons, skies, the stars and all. And it's only a little whisper of God's power. He is over all. He is the God whom we worship.

And with this thought in mind. Especially God's grace and work and redemption. The Apostle here exhorts us to rejoice. Rejoice in the Lord always.

And again I say rejoice. Indeed we have much cause for rejoicing. As a point of interest. The word joy appears.

Five times within this immediate context. In chapter 1 verses 25 and 26. In chapter 3 verses 1 and 3.

And here in chapter 4 verses 4 and 10. No he urges us to rejoice. Eleven times. You see Paul has set before this church.

[ 5 : 08 ] A triumphant Christ. Whose name is above every name. And before whose knee. Before whose knee.

Every other knee. Is destined to bow. Bearing that in mind. Then what people. Should they be.

Those who are united to him. Now Paul experienced this joy himself. And here in this verse I believe.

He issues a challenge. To rejoice. In the Lord. And dear friend. There is enough. In God.

To furnish us. With joy. And thanksgiving. Whatever our circumstances. And that includes everyone present here this evening.

[ 6 : 06 ] You may be ready to say. Ah but you don't know where I am. True enough. But I repeat that statement. There is. Enough.

In God. To furnish every one of you. With joy and thanksgiving. Whatever your circumstances are. All God's dealings.

Are a matter for praise. Not merely resignation. And certainly not murmuring. So then.

Paul here. He commands this expression. Of Christian gladness. He commands it. Rejoice. In the Lord.

Or way. And he emphasizes it. And again. I say. Rejoice. Paul also points out. The secret.

[ 7 : 07 ] Of this gladness. Dear friends. This rejoicing is no put on show. No it is not. No. It is the evidence.

Of one standing in Christ. And fellowship with him. I repeat. It is the evidence.

Of one standing. In Christ. Christ. And fellowship. With him. Rejoice. In the Lord. It is in the Lord.

It is in the Lord. Where the Christian stands. Where he lives. It is in the Lord. Where he operates. You see.

The life of a Christian. Is bound up. With his saviour. He is not. He is not his own. He is the Lord's.

[ 8 : 04 ] He was saved by him. And his saviour is one. Who will never. No. Never forsake him. I give unto my sheep.

Eternal life. And they shall never perish. Neither shall any man. Pluck them. Out of my hands. Our saviour is one.

Who will never forsake us. He is one who controls. All things. For our good. And he is one who will forgive sin.

Upon confession. He is our sure portion. Our delight. Our good. Our crown. Yea rejoice.

In the Lord. He righteous. Doctor once said. Concerning the Lord Christ. Thou art that sea of love. Where all my passions rule.

[ 9 : 09 ] The circle where my passions move. The centre of my soul. For. And we may well ask the question. As John Newton did. What think you of Christ?

Whose son is he? What think he of Christ? Is the test. To try both your state. And your scheme. You cannot be right on the rest.

Unless you think rightly of him. Our last hymn. I was going to keep it to the last. But it has just come to my mind now.

In hymn number 933. One of John Newton's. He speaks of. The joy. Of that in which we rejoice.

A bleeding saviour. Seen by faith. A sense of pardoning love. A hope that triumphs over death.

[ 10 : 09 ] Give joys like those above. To take a glimpse within the veil. To know that God is mine. Are springs of joy.

That never fail. Unspeakable. Divine. And that's true. Rejoice. In the Lord.

And the time is stated for obedience. Rejoice in the Lord. Always. Every situation. Every circumstance. All times.

How comprehensive. This is. We rejoice perhaps. When on the crest. Of the wave. And all is going well with us.

As we think. But Paul shows us. That this rejoicing. Is for the valleys. As well as the mountain peaks. God is always good.

[ 11 : 10 ] It is. This rejoicing is for the rough. As well as for the smooth. For God is good when he gives. Supremely good. Nor less when he denies.

In crosses. In his sovereign hand. Are blessings. In disguise. Rejoice. In the Lord.

Always. I recall the word of Habakkuk. The prophet. Things look black in his day. And he said.

Although the fig tree. Shall not blossom. Neither shall fruit. Be in the vines. The labour of the olive. Shall fail. The field. Shall yield no meat.

The flocks. Be cut off. From the fold. And no herd. Shall be. In the stalls. Yet. Yet.

[ 12 : 06 ] Despite all that. I will rejoice. In the Lord. And joy. In the God. Of my salvation. As if he would say.

Let total catastrophe. Comes. I still rejoice. In the Lord. My God. And dear friend. There's faith. Rejoice.

In the Lord. Always. And this shows. The comfort. Of this command. The Lord. Is always the same.

He changes. Is not. Our lot may change. Our friends. Our circumstances. But the Saviour. Remains ever the same.

And he suffices. For. Every. Situation. Again. I repeat. He's the same. Yesterday. And today. And forever.

[ 13 : 06 ] No. Variableness. Not even a shadow. Of turning. With him. He is. Eternally. Committed.

To the good. Of his people. And therefore. He is their. Constant. Source. Of joy. And rejoicing.

Because. He. Never fails. There's a verse. I like. I often quote. I never get tired of it. It made so sweet to me. About a year ago.

When looking into the future. Things looked a bit bleak for me. In certain directions. And this word came. Rather nicely. Peace.

Perfect peace. The future. All unknown. But. Jesus. I know. And he's on the throne.

- [ 14 : 02 ] What a wonderful thought. The one who is on the throne. Is not. A stranger to us. Is none other than.
- Jesus our saviour. How strengthening to us. How strengthening to you. In your circumstances. Whatever they are. It is not a stranger who is on the throne.
- Acting as a despot. Or as a dictator in your life. It's your own saviour. Your redeemer. The one. Who is touched with a feeling.
- Of your infirmities. Having been in all points. Tempted. Like as you are. He is the one. Who is on the throne. Rejoice in him.
- And again. Rejoice in him. Always. And again I say. Rejoice. He is in heaven.
- [ 14 : 59 ] And our life is hid. With Christ. In heaven. I like the word of. Samuel Rutherford.
- He refers to. The believers. Copy of the covenant. In which we rejoice. Rejoice. He says. Your copy.
- May get tattered and torn. But he says. Christ keeps the original. The original. In heaven. With himself.
- Yes. He's got the original. In heaven. Rejoice. In the Lord. Always. And again. I say. Rejoice.
- Rejoice. You may say. Well. But I've got some hard things. To endure. In my pathway. Yes. I have no doubt. You are.
- [ 15 : 55 ] You are. Experiencing. The truth. Of the word of our Lord. Himself. In the world. He shall have. Tribulation.
- But Christ. Directs you. To himself. For in him. There is that peace. Which Paul speaks of here. Which passes.
- All. Understanding. And did not. Jesus say. To his disciples. Of these things. I have spoken unto you. That your joy.
- May. Be forth. And those words. Were spoken. By him. With the shadow. Of Gethsemane. And Calvary.
- Over him. Who for the joy. That was set before him. Endured the cross. Despised the shame. And is now set down.
- [ 16 : 51 ] At the right hand. Of the throne. Of God on high. And you see. Christ's victory. Makes our joy. A reality.
- Rejoice in the Lord. All way. And notice the emphasis. This then. Paul gives. He says again. Now this is no. Passing remark.
- This is not an art. Keep smiling. And be happy. No. It's something more than that. And you'll need. Something more than that too. Rejoice.
- In the Lord. Says Paul. Paul here. Then sets before us. Yes. The Christian duty. To show. The joy. Of the Lord. In our lives. Friends. We lack. We lack. I know we're sinners. I know we have a lot.
- [ 17 : 53 ] To mourn over. But when I think. Of those. Poor creatures. Dead. In trespasses. And in sins. Having no hope.
- Without God. In the world. So they live. So they die. So they perish. But not you. Not me. I've got a good hope.
- Through God's grace. That it will be well. With me. Etern. Have we not something. To rejoice in. Think about these things.
- He sets before us. Then this Christian duty. To show. The joy. Of the Lord. In our lives. As opposed. To carrying.

With us. A gloom. That gives. The lie. To a genuine. To a genuine. Christian profession. And it does. But let me just mention here.

[ 18 : 58 ] We do want to be. Aware of. A false joy. I do find in certain. Circles where.

They have what one writer. Called. Those plastic smiles. Those plastic smiles. Which he so objected to. Well I've seen them.

No friend. I can't put these things on. You know. I'm down. Until the Lord lifts me up. And that's where man is by nature. And I want to be lifted up. And kept up. And rejoice in the Lord my God.

And in his great salvation. And I want to be. And I want to be. And I want to be. And I want to be. But there's one thing you will find though. And it may well be. If any of you should be in Joe's ditch.

Or anywhere near that vicinity. You will say. Well things are going pretty heavy with me at the moment. I have a good hope through God's grace. But I don't live on the mountaintop.

[ 19 : 57 ] I don't enjoy the sweets of religion. As I would desire. Well we must bear in mind this. And it is important. The Lord always chastens his children.

You know there are times. When a chastened child of God. Comes in bitterness of soul. And I would like to make this statement.

We must settle it. We must settle it. As a fundamental principle. Of the Christian life. That until we are made.

Into the perfect likeness. Of Jesus Christ. We are going to feel the sting of God's rod. There is no escape.

From divine chastisement. As an integral factor. In the Christian life. In the Christian life. The believer.

[ 21 : 01 ] The believer. The believer can be exhorted. To rejoice in the Lord. Because whom the Lord loveth. He chasteneth. It's a token.

An evidence. Of his love. Rejoice in the Lord always. The Lord. And again I say rejoice. Paul knew.

Of their difficulties. The present ones. And their future ones. Yet he exhorts.

Rejoice. In the Lord. He would have them. Finish their course. With joy. You know. We find this all the way through.

The Christian experience. Right down to the end. And how good it is. When the old saints are taken home to glory. And they finish their course. With joy.

[ 21 : 59 ] Stephen. Fell asleep. When he died. He slept. In fact. Sleep. Is the heavens language for death.

What is said of Herod. God smote him. There's the difference. I'm going to understand. That in the calicons at Rome. You can see the inscription.

On some of the stones. The Latin word dormit. He sleeps in peace. On the inscriptions. On the Christian.

Or believers. Tombstones. But in the case. Of the unbelievers. Or the same period of time.

There's another Latin word. Come from my mind. Just for the moment. Which means. Snaps away. Violently. I wonder.

[ 23 : 01 ] Whether any of you. Pray. About your letter. And I do. Maybe because. I'm getting on that way. But dear friend. Let me be simple. And I'm going to be simple tonight.

What a mercy. To die and get to heaven. Won't it? In that dread moment. Oh to hide.  
Beneath this sheltering blood. Till Jordan's icy waves.

Divide. And land my soul with God. I already remember. My own dear mother. I was in my.  
Middle or late teens.

And she. Just before she passed on. She said. There shall I bathe. My weary soul. In seas  
of heavenly rest. And not a wave of trouble.

Roll across. My peaceful rest. Parents and your children. Look. Eternity is in front. It's not  
very far. Not very far ahead.

[ 24 : 01 ] What a mercy. Here we meet. Only depart again. What a mercy. To meet above. Never  
depart anymore. That is everything.

I think I quoted this morning. I believe it came to my mind in prayer. Didn't mind me  
quoting it again? It's a word of John Newton. Life.

A field of battle is. Thousands fall within our view. And the next death book that flies. May  
be sent to me or you. While we preach.

Or while we hear. Help us Lord. Each one to think. Vast eternity is near. I'm standing. On  
the brink.

Where shall we spend. Eternity. Now. The apostle Paul then. He exhorts him in this way.  
In manner.

[ 25 : 01 ] This was his own hope. And he knew. What it was. To rejoice in the Lord. And again I say.  
Rejoice.

On a son who will be ready to say. Well physician. Heal thyself. Well. Let us look at this  
person. Who writes like this. He's a prisoner.

In a foreign land. He was chained. To a soldier. As he dictated. These very words. He was  
one.

Who fought. No greater crime. Than preaching Christ. Was publicly flogged. And suffered  
in prison. With his feet in the stocks.

But he sang praises. There we see. In the case of Paul. For the triumph of joy. Over  
despair. He lived in the Lord.

[ 26 : 01 ] Who gives a song in the night. And Paul knew what it was indeed. To rejoice. In the Lord.  
In writing to the Corinthians.

Chapter 4. Verse 10. Of his own pathway. He says. We are troubled. On every side. Yet.  
Not distressed.

Perplexed. But not in despair. Persecuted. But not forsaken. Cast down. But not  
destroyed.

Always bearing about in the body. The dying of the Lord Jesus. That the life also of Jesus.  
Might be made manifest.

In. Our own. Body. I recall. I recall. A little illustration. John Newton. Gives us.

[ 26 : 57 ] Maybe I've mentioned it before. I'm not quite sure. Of. A hearer of his. A dear. Elderly  
woman. Whom he loved. In the truth.

When she came to the end of her journey. And on her deathbed. She was asked. Whether  
everything was exactly as she wished. She said. No. Far from it. And so.

The inquirer said. Will I take it then. That you're not ready to die. She said. Yes I am. I'm  
quite ready to die. If it pleases. Is. My father.

To put me to bed in the dark. I can trust him. My dear friends. That's faith. A faith which  
will trust God in the dark.

And Job was there. In my daily reading. I'm in the middle of Job now. Oh my. What depths he went. What depths. And yet.

[ 27 : 54 ] Though he slay me. Yet I trust in him. Come what will. There is that faith. Which lives and labours under load.

And though damned. It never dies. Good Henry Fowler. Fowler. One of our hymn writers. Experienced the same. On his deathbed. I think it was.

He was asked. Whether things were. As he wished them to be. And whether Christ was precious to him. He says. No. But I'm resting here.

I know that I am precious to Christ. I believe I know a little of this. That at times when I would to God.

I enjoyed more of the sweets. The comforts. And the consolation. Of the gospel. I do not enjoy them.

[ 28 : 49 ] As I desire. But at the same time. Underneath it all. Dear friends. What a mercy to know this. I know. Where my hope is.

I'm not passing on any secret. When I say. Friends. Listen. My hope. Is built. On nothing less. Than Jesus.

Blood. And righteousness. I dare not trust. The sweetest faith. But how good I may feel. I dare not trust. The sweetest faith.

But wholly. Lean. On Jesus name. Is on Christ. The solid rock. I stand. All other ground.

Is sinking sand. As far as salvation. Is concerned. I cannot better. The thought. Given us. By J.C. Ryle. We must all come.

[ 29 : 47 ] On the same ground. With the same plea. Christ died. On the cross. Toward the ungodly. And I trust.

In him. I've often made the statement. If I perish. I perish. At the foot of the cross. Now thoughts like this.

They give rise. For rejoicing. In the Lord. We don't want to make too much of it. But look for the rock. From whence. You've been hewn. Look where you.

Once were. And where you would still be. But for God's grace. Look to the rock. From whence you were hewn. To the hole of the pit. From whence you were digged.

And again. Look at these. Poor wretches. Without hope. Without God. In the world. And so they live. So they die.

[ 30 : 45 ] So they perish. And we've been brought. To no difference. John Newton says. I'm not what I. Hope to be. Not what I want to be.

Not what I ought to be. But I thank God. I'm not what I once was. And I thank him. That by the grace of God.

I am. What I am. Rejoice. In the world. The exercise. Of this faith.

The exercise. Of this faith. Centred in Christ. Brings back to my mind. Our journey. Over the Atlantic Ocean. In 1960.

See. And we were speaking. To our friends about it. At our prayer meeting. One of the brethren. Prayed. That the ocean. The Atlantic Ocean.

[ 31 : 40 ] Might be like a mill pond. Well it wasn't. The three days. And three nights. We had terrible. Sea sickness. It did me good. Because it made me realize.

The emptiness. Of what I sometimes. Might call. A deathbed. Repentance. I was a minister. Of the gospel. But I couldn't care less. About my soul. I couldn't care less.

It was that. Terrible. Sickness. Which so. Pervaded. The whole body. But the point was this. We were tossed up and down.

In the storm. But we didn't roll. Because. The Queen Elizabeth. Had stabilizing fins. Shoot out. That side. Or that side.

And. The stabilizing fins. On the side of the ship. Are controlled. By a little gyroscope.

[ 32 : 38 ] Hidden down. In the depths. Of the ship. And that gyroscope. Is tuned. To the true vertical. Irrespective.

Of the surface. Above it. And every tendency. Of the ship. To leave. The vertical. The vertical. Is compensated. For.

By an adjustment. Made to the fins. On the command. Of the gyroscope. The life. The life. The life. Well it sets forth. Very beautifully.

The life of God within. In the way. In the heart. It cannot be moved. By the vagaries.

Of this life. Because it is not in tune. With the rising and falling. Of the ways of this life. It is in tune.

[ 33 : 33 ] With the stable. Unchanging life. Of the eternal God. And his word. What a sweet thought that is.

God. In the midst. So then. As in. Verse 13. Chapter 2. Paul is. Repeating. What he says there. Work out.

What God is. Working in you. Both to will and to do. Of his. Good pleasure. And dear friends. To bring. These few thoughts.

In verse 4. To a conclusion. Let us go. To our heavenly father. Pleading. Christ's name. The Lord Jesus said.

Ask. And it shall be given you. Seek. And ye shall find. Knock. And it shall be open unto you. For everyone that asketh.

[ 34 : 29 ] Receiveth. He that seeketh. Findeth. And to him that knocketh. It shall. Be.

Opened. Now maybe I've reminded you before. And I'll remind you again. Of that word of Martin Luther. Concerning prayer. It is important.

Remember he says. In prayer. It is not a matter. Of overcoming God's reluctance. It is a laying hold.

Of his willingness. Sweet thought that. He is no reluctant. He is no reluctant God. He has bid us come. He exhorts us.

He commands us to come. So then let us go. To our heavenly father. You know. A taste of this joy. Which. For speaks of here.

[ 35 : 27 ] Is an earnest. Of. Of. Of. Of. An inexpressible joy. Which all. Will experience. Hereafter. That is all believers.

And that is the summons. Enter thou. Into. The joy. Of thy Lord. God. Now. Now. I would like.

To just. Go back over. Very. Very. Briefly. What I've said. And mention it. In summary form. Here then. The apostle. In this exhortation.

There is in it. A prohibition. Against. Seeking. Happiness. In this world. We're exhorted.

To turn away from it. Happiness. Is to be found. Elsewhere. In Christ. Only. Top lady. Asked the question.

[ 36 : 23 ] Happiness. Thou lovely name. Where's thy seat. O tell me where. Learning. Pleasure. Something. Fame. That all. Crowd. It is not here. But is to know him.



Whom to know. Is life eternal. Rejoice in the Lord. Because. Of who God is. In the glory.  
Of his person. Because he reigns in heaven. And on earth. Because he's in complete  
control. In your life. Rejoice in the Lord.

Let us rejoice. Because he has provided. Such a saviour. Let us not forget. John 3.16.  
God so loved the world.

That he gave. His only begotten son. That whosoever believeth in him. Should not perish.  
But have. Everlasting life. Let us rejoice.

[ 37 : 20 ] That there is. Such a saviour. As Jesus is. One who can deliver us. From our sins. He is  
just such a saviour.

As poor sinners need. He does just what we want. A saviour to do. Think of his amazing.  
Forbearance. Over on many sins.

The superabounding. Of his grace. And mercy. I often quote that verse. No earthly father  
loves like thee. No mother e'er so mild.

Bears and forbears. As thou hast done with me. Thy sinful child. I like that word in Micah.  
Who is a God like unto thee. With proudest iniquity.

And passeth by. The transgression of the remnant of his heritage. He retaineth not his  
anger forever. Because he delighted in mercy.

[ 38 : 20 ] That's a wonderful truth. God doesn't merely give it. He delights in mercy. It's not dragged  
out of him. Even by our prayers.

He delights to give. It's his darling attribute. Mercy. Rejoice in the Lord. And what cause  
we have to rejoice.

We need one to make. Known to us the way of pardon. Well he does it. We need one to  
make atonement for our sins. Well he does it.

We need one to give us peace. From a troubled conscience. He does it. And we shall  
need one. To comfort us. On our bed of death.

And guide us through. The dark valley. Dear friends. Jesus. Can do it. Let us rejoice then.  
In remembrance of what he's done for us.

[ 39 : 21 ] And what he's done in us. Again I exhort you to look to the rock. For whence you've been  
hewn. You were once an heir of hell. Now you are an heir of heaven.

And rejoice. That all the great and exceeding precious promises are his. Including the  
supply of all your temple good.

For if God gives you the greater. Will he not give you the lesser. The rejoice.

That all power. Is in the hands of Christ. That is rejoice. That all things work together for  
good. To them that love God.

To them that are called. According to his purpose. Rejoice. In the consummation. Of all  
things.

[ 40 : 19 ] How God will bring infinite good. Out of great evil. And there will be the final end. To the  
great problem of evil.

That day when Christ will reign. I prayed for it. The day when the kingdoms of this world.  
Should become the kingdoms of our Lord.

And his Christ. Dear friend. We may. And should. Rejoice in him. The principal joy. Of a  
true Christian.

Should be in the Lord. He should find his happiness. Not in riches. Vality. Ambition.

Or in the world in any form. But in communion. With the Lord Jesus Christ. And in the  
hope. Of eternal life.

[ 41 : 16 ] Through him. In his friendship. And service. We should find our highest choice. Finally it is the privilege.

Of a Christian. To rejoice in the Lord. He has more sources. Of joy. Than any other man. They are sources. Which. And never fail. Rejoice. In the Lord. And again I say. Rejoice. Then the apostle goes on.

Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. What a word is this. Be careful for nothing. Be not overcharged.

With care. Over any matter at all. Be careful for nothing. But in everything. By prayer. And supplication.

[ 42 : 17 ] With thanksgiving. Let your request. Be made known unto God. I used to have been praying about this matter for a long while. Well.

The Lord. Brings us often times to wait. But keep going. You're at the right door. You can't do any better. The man at the pool.

He waited there for 38 years. He could do no good by going away. And he stayed there. And when Christ come. He was there to receive the cure. Be careful for nothing.

But in everything. By prayer. And supplication. With thanksgiving. Let your request. Be made known. Unto God. And the peace of God.

Which passeth all understanding. Shall keep your hearts and minds. Through Christ Jesus. Well I'll leave the matter there.

[ 43 : 17 ] May God bless these few remarks. For his name's sake. Who are you. Who■■■ knows.

Who infer■■ng about their walls. That would be a big forum. God bless them. All right. That would be a Wi-Fi experience. For safety. God bless. You're the little bit. You're the little bit. And you're the little bit. What Monet ■■■■■■ is. Let tom make peace.

Amen. I say this.