

## Phil Ch 4 Vs 6-9

Think About it

On your way to Phil ch 4 stop off for a moment at Matt ch 6, because I want to read to you and show you directly the Lords words regarding the disposition of the believer concerning the events or necessities of life. and In light of our nations current tragedies everyone (at least for a moment) if not still seemed to be and again many still are, in a panic. and From the natural perspective that's completely understandable, the world trade center's twin towers (symbolizing the economic security of America) strategically destroyed through terrorist activity. The pentagon (which symbolizes the American defense center) severely damaged, another plane (possibly headed for the white house crashing killing everyone on board) and all of this happening on the same day. We're on the verge of what seems to be a full scale war that will last only God knows how long and Americans are left kind of up in arms, confused, anxious, and worried.

Yet Jesus told us that all of these things would happen, that nation would rise against nation, lawlessness would abound causing the love of many to grow cold, that all sorts of incredible things would happen in the end times such to the extent that men's hearts would fail them for fear. The trade center went down and an immediate panic set in, gas prices were sky rocketing with in hours, everybody worried about what's going to happen next. and Jesus acknowledged that these radical things would happen in the world prior to His return and He said when you see these things, really they're just like the birth pangs, they're simply the preview of the coming attraction. But to the child of God that's in the world he had a completely different insight to share with us regarding what *our* mind set is to be in the midst of what would cause the common person that doesn't know God to panic or to worry, even the common things like how am I going to pay the bills, what am I going to wear, how am I going to feed my family. God has not appointed His children to wrath, nor is He not concerned with your daily needs and so the word of the Lord to the child of God is *don't worry about it*, God's going to take care of you. Notice vs 25 of Ch 6

### Vs25-26

Now at this point I need to point out that Jesus isn't teaching apathy and idleness, I've never seen a bird sit around on a house top or telephone pole and wait for an angel to come along and drop worms in it's mouth. They get out there and canvas the ground for sustenance, but who's placed the sustenance in the earth for them? It's God who feeds them, and even so when we need work, when we need to feed our families we don't sit around on the couch just waiting for the phone to ring. "Well, if God wants me to work He'll bring me an employer." No, God's given you the ability to work, He's given you a brain and He wants you to use it, get out there, canvas the area and when you receive a job praise God that He got it for you. and Sometimes you may have to settle for something that's not your exact professional field for a season because you have to feed your family and then you keep pursuing that desired area until God opens that up. But the point here is that the birds don't freak out because they don't have 2 months worth of worms stored away just incase, God provides for them daily, and yet how much more important to God are you than birds?

## Vs27-32

To me this vs is sort of a slap in the face, (and one that's needed I might add). Jesus is saying that when we allow ourselves to be consumed with these types of things, and we find ourselves ensnared by worry, we've reverted back to the point of being no different than non-believers. Because these are the types of things that they're worried about, what's going to happen, where do we go from here, what are we going to eat, how am I going to pay the bills? The command is found in vs 31, Jesus said "*Do not worry*", why, because worry displays our lack of trust in God and His ability preserve and take care of us.

Notice the last 5 words of vs 30 "O you of little faith." You see worry and faith are mutually exclusive and to the degree that you trust the Lord, you won't worry. But to often we get side tracked by these issues and we get scatter brain and torn in 10 different directions because we're trying to take care of this and tend to that when Jesus told us that He'd take care of all of it for us if we'd simply make Him and His purposes for our lives the priority of our lives. Notice Vs 33

## Vs33-34

That's just it, most all of our worries are based upon things that are yet to take place that we're not even certain of in the 1<sup>st</sup> place. We don't usually worry about what happened yesterday because what's the point? It's already gone, now we might worry about the ramifications of our actions or whatever, but that's what's yet to come (you see) so in reality we're worried about the future. Someone has said, "Worry is wasting today's time to clutter up tomorrow's opportunities with yesterday's trouble." and So what Jesus is saying is let tomorrow worry about tomorrow, you trust the Lord and be anxious for nothing. This is the principal that Paul is echoing in Phil ch 4 in vs 6 where we read, "*Be anxious for nothing.*"

Don't worry about your rights or what's fair in a given situation; you recall that's he's dealing with a schism in the body in the church of Philippi. and His instruction is that they be of the same mind, rather than a divided mind. That they keep the issue in it's proper perspective and rather than have to be right over the issue. Just rejoice that your name is in the book of life and keep moving forward with God's plan. Don't stifle it through self-seeking, and the exhortation is to let our gentleness be known to all men, that outward quality of the inward reality of the joy of the Lord in my heart. You see apparently the situation was a bit heated to say the least, and so Paul is saying, let your *gentleness* be known, not your brutality and viciousness, or your fits of rage and bad attitude concerning *your* rights. and Notice he said show it to *all men*, not just those to whom we feel like it, or those to whom we believe deserve it, but even to the ones we have a disagreement with. and It ties together in vs 6 in the manner of don't worry about the outcome, pray about it and trust the Lord, leave it with Him, and be anxious for (or worried about) nothing.

Let's read vs 6

Vs6

Now again the words to draw special attention to in this vs are the words “nothing” and “everything” why? Because they’re mutually exclusive, they rule one another out, they’re directly opposed to one another and they stand for 2 commands (not suggestions) that are given in this vs, the 1<sup>st</sup> one being what we’re to worry about or suffer anxiety over, the 2<sup>nd</sup> what we’re to pray about and trust the Lord with. The 1<sup>st</sup> one what we’re to worry about, and if you didn’t underline it or circle it last week go ahead and do that today, “nothing.” Be anxious for nothing, now this word “nothing is an interesting word, I looked it up in the Greek and you know what it meant? It meant nothing; the definition included “nobody, no one, nothing” “Nothing” is probably the most exclusive word in the English language, why, because it leaves out everything, this is the same idea that Jesus was conveying, don’t worry about anything, because all worry does is display a lack of trust God to whom we’ve commended ourselves over to.

Now understand that this isn’t saying that we’re to walk around with rose colored glasses having an unrealistic view of the world. Sin is real, sickness is real; I was at a funeral Monday morning of a young lady 25 yrs of age who had a 2 yr old child. Funerals have a way of sobering you up to the reality of your human frailty, the fact that you’re not guaranteed tomorrow and how important it is to be ready to give an account for your life today should the Lord require your soul you. But she’d struggled with cancer for over 2yrs, I’m not suggesting that the problems of this life are to simply be ignored. But what I am saying is that the bible tells us that we’re not to worry about anything we’re not to let it get the best of us, we’re to trust the Lord, the Who is the becoming One of our lives, becoming whatever we may need at the moment we need it.

In our moment of weakness, He becomes my strength, when I’m emotionally drained, He is my comfort, when I’m fearful for my life, He becomes my shield. and When I’m worried, He becomes my surety, my strong tower, my refuge, my confidence, and the lifter of my head. How, by my commending my every issue in life over to Him, by my casting my cares upon Him knowing that He cares for me. and When you read that vs in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter, it ultimately leads up to the fact, including in the understanding of the vs that we come to the place where we’re casting our whole lives upon the Lord, because He can take better care of us than we can of ourselves. Ps 55:22 says, “*Cast your burden on the LORD, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.*”

Jesus restated that same principal when He said, “Come to Me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Cast your burden upon Me and I will sustain you, I will give you peace. and You know I have to confess that this in one commandment that I find myself breaking from time to time, I find myself worrying about different issues, but that’s not my place and I know that. It’s not my sons place to worry about whether or not the house payment gets made, that’s not his responsibility, that’s my place, my responsibility to provide and take care of my family. Well, in like manner it’s God’s responsibility to take care of His children, to meet their needs and provide for His family, and it’s not our place as His children to worry about it.

But rather we're to (again) cast our cares, or our worries upon Him, and how do we do that? That takes us to the 2<sup>nd</sup> command of this vs, through praying over and about *everything*. Most of you are no doubt familiar with the old hymn, "oh what peace we often forfeit, oh what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry *everything* to God in prayer." You see when we commend our situation over to the Lord, if we truly believe that He hears us and is concerned for us and will do with the situation what's eternally best for us, then what's to worry about. But the cancer is terminal, with God nothing will be impossible. He can cure terminal cancer just as easily as the common cold or a soar throat, but we also trust that He's the giver and taker of life, and if He desires to take us home then we receive the ultimate in eternal healing. His ways are not our ways, we're mindful of the things of man, He's mindful of the things of God, we're reasoning with finite understanding, His understanding is infinite, and He is able to keep that which has been committed to Him in which ever way it seems best to Him in the eternal scope of things. and So the reason we're to worry about nothing is because we're to pray about everything. The bible says that Anxiety (or worry) in the heart of man causes depression, many people today seem to struggle with depression and they visit the doctor and get various medications for their condition. But the biblical cure for depression is prayer; give those circumstances that are placing that worry into your heart to the Lord, and then trust Him with them. and Not just what we deem to be the big things, and this is another area I find fault in my own life, the big things in life I'm quick to take to God. But the little things I just deal with on my own, which seems to inevitably create big things out of them.

There is no situation or circumstance in your life that is irrelevant to God. The story is told of a lady approaching G. Campbell Morgan, and she asked him, "Dr. Morgan, do you think we should pray about the *little* things in our lives?" and Dr. Morgan replied, "Madam, can you mention anything in your life that is *big* to God?" There's no such thing as a "big deal" that we bring to God, it's all-small, it's just big to us because it's in *our* face, and anything seems big to us when we can't see anything else. So we're to give it *all* to God. I looked up "everything" in the Greek, it means "everything" the definition includes, "each, every, any, all, the whole, everyone, all things, everything" and Here Paul uses 3 words to describe the manner in which we're to pray, the 3 aspects of prayer, by prayers and supplications, with thanksgiving.

1<sup>st</sup> of all in everything by prayer, now this word "prayer" is a broad term, it speaks of our communion with God in the broad sense of the word. When I approach God, it's through prayer and something that's important to note is that prayer is not to be a monologue, it's a dialogue. So many times we rush into God's presence, present ourselves before the throne, say our piece and leave. But prayer isn't to be one-sided, it's sort of like a telephone call, it's two-way communication. and It's important that we wait on the Lord to speak to us, that we have ears to hear when the Lord wants to speak.

I like what Pastor Chuck said regarding this issue. He said, “Through the years I have come to the conclusion that it’s more important that God talk to me than I talk to God. I am convinced that what God has to say to me is far more important than what I have to say to God.” and You know I agree with him, how important that we seek to develop that listening side of prayer, having laid out our hearts before God, waiting upon Him to respond.

This word prayer carries with it the idea of worship and adoration, when Jesus taught His disciples to pray He said pray in like manner, “Our Father which art in Heaven, Hallowed be Your name.” Acknowledging the Lord’s place, hallowing Him adoring Him, worshipping Him and for who He is, these things are all apart of prayer. Supplication being more specific, more of a narrow term speaking of petitioning God regarding specific needs in my life, James said you have not because you ask not. But he said when you ask make sure it’s not for selfish purposes or you won’t get it anyway, because as a disciple we’re to deny self. So supplication is that petitioning of God for specific things or about specific things in my life and issues of my life. It also branches out into petitioning God for the needs of others, interceding on their behalf, so requests in the personal sense for my own needs, and then in the broader sense for the needs of those around me. Again in the Lord’s model prayer we find petitions in the broad sense, *“Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”* and In the personal and specific sense, *“Give us this day our daily bread And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.”*

The attitude which is to encompass our prayer life being that of thanksgiving. You know I’ve often said that even if God allows me to die cold starving and naked in some back alley, the reality is He’s already given me more than I could ever repay in the free gift of everlasting life. and When that sobering reality sinks in we’ll have that attitude of thanksgiving rather than the one of griping and complaining. We need to approach God with genuine appreciation in our hearts for the gift that He’s given us in His Son. So it’s in this manner that we’re to approach the Lord by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, if we do that there’s no need to freak out about things. We’ve committed the details of our lives over to God; the psalmist put it like this, “Be still and know that I am God.” “Lord, I don’t know what to do, everything is caving in around me, I can’t pay my bills, the nation is under attack, I’m scared to go to sleep at night.” “Be still, and know that I am God.” He didn’t say, “Freak out and forget that I am God.” Be anxious for nothing, let your requests be made known to God through prayer, supplication, with thanksgiving and the peace of God will guard your heart and mind.

Vs7

Now as I told you last week you can’t know the peace of God until you’ve 1<sup>st</sup> made peace with God through receiving Jesus Christ into your heart by faith. That’s how we’re justified before God, that’s how we make peace with God, if you don’t know Jesus you’re at war with God, and believe me when I say you’ll lose.

But once we've made peace with God, we can experience the peace of God, God's personal peace, Jesus said, "*Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*" There's no stability in worldly peace, Jesus said I don't leave you their kind of peace, I leave you My peace, the type that guards your heart and your mind, that word "guard" there in vs 7 is a military term speaking of a garrison or a barricade that defends something.

Those who are lacking peace, those who feel as though they're losing their minds, it's because they don't have the necessary defense system in place, they're not allowing God's peace to garrison their hearts and minds because they're not trusting God with the issues of their life, they haven't cast their cares upon Him, trusting Him to care for them. But when you do there's such peace, something comes up and people say, "what are you going to do about it?" and You say, "I've already done it, I've given it over to the Lord." "Yeah, but you've got to do something" "I'm telling you I've already done it" "I don't understand" "Neither do I" but I have peace, I know for all intents and purposes I should be freaking out, and I don't understand why I'm not except to say God's peace is guarding my heart, and my mind, and I trust Him."

You see so many times God uses prayer, not to change our circumstances, but to change us and our perspective of our circumstances. We entered this passage with anxiety and worry, and came out on the other side with peace, and in between the 2 was prayer. Have things changed? Not really, (circumstantially) the storm may still be blowing, circumstances may still be raging out of control, but something happened to the individual, to the soul, the heart and the mind. Our anxiety wants God to change everything around us, "God change this, alter that, don't let this come to pass" When we should be concerned with the error of our hearts, and praying "God, change *me*", you see we enter with worry, but can come out with peace as we're open to God altering our perspective. It's like viewing a storm from a plane, when you fly at night often you can look out of the window and see miles and miles and there are times when I'll look out and even though we're flying smooth, I can see these little flashes of lighting over a certain city or something and you can tell by the nature of it that it's a pretty wicked storm. and If you were in the midst of it, it could be overwhelming, but from my perspective looking down on it, it seem so small and insignificant and through prayer God can cause us to see what we're considering to be a wicked storm from His perspective, looking down on it showing in the reality of the minor issue it is in the eternal scope of things.

Vs8

Well, there goes the television huh? J. Vernon McGee sites this as the briefest biography of Christ. True, noble (or honest), just, pure, lovely, good, virtuous, and praiseworthy, but it's things with these qualities that we're to focus on, the truth of the word of God, things that are pure, again this is a huge issue for believers, personal purity, there are so many things that just aren't worth thinking about, and yet I find that generally those are things that occupy our minds. What that person said about me, that lie, that injustice, things that are immoral, and we stew on these things. When in reality we're to put those things from us and bring our thoughts into the captivity of Christ

Pornography is one of if not the biggest and fastest growing industry (if you can call it that) on the Internet, Paul didn't say whatever things are porn; he said whatever things are pure. You people can't even fathom the # of believers that have been ensnared by the vice of pornography, the marriages it destroys, the purity of single people and married people that it defiles, and it reduces peoples lives to a crust of bread. It's called "The net" for a reason, its called "The Web" for a reason, be pure in your relationship to Jesus, it's not worth the ramifications spiritually or physically. James said the wisdom which is from above is 1<sup>st</sup> pure, then peaceable and full of good fruits. We're to meditate on virtuous things, focus on praiseworthy things, allow them to be assimilated and absorbed into our very being so that they shape our conduct, the things we do and say and think about. Paul is saying if there is anything, be it a principal or something practical, obviously the Lord, His word, things of the Spirit, anything that falls into one or all of these characteristics, think about it, soak it up, assimilate it allow it to shape and mold your character.

Vs9

Real quickly 4 words to take note of in this vs, #1 learned, #2 received, #3 heard, and #4 saw. and I want you to see the example of the fact that not only did the Philippians learn, but they received. It's possible to learn something and never really receive it into your life, to be a hearer of the word only and not a doer; they were being commended for hearing and doing. and The next 2 can be stated in an old cliché', Paul practiced what he preached; they heard it from him and saw it lived out in him. Again how we need to be the examples one to another of Christ like living. He said you do these things and the God of peace will be with you. and When you have the peace of God to guard you, and the God of peace to guide you (being with you) think about it, meditate on it assimilate it, why worry?

But with out the peace of God to guard you and the God of peace to guide you, you have every reason to worry. But those worries can evaporate this morning by simply placing your trust in Jesus, not in word only, but from the heart, I encourage to make peace with God this morning through Jesus Christ That you might know the peace of God and even more importantly the God of peace, He wants peace with you this morning but it's up to you, you can wage war if you like, but I encourage surrender.