

An Impossible Possibility

Phil 4: 47-

Intro: - words of Voltaire - Paul - the difference is X.

Here we have the keynote of the epistle, over & over again Paul strikes this note of joy. This continual refrain of gladness is all the more remarkable if we remember the Apostle's circumstances. A prisoner in a Roman prison & when Rome fixed its claws it did not usually 'let go' without drawing blood. - facing death. Everything in the future was entirely dark & uncertain. Yet out of all the darkness his clear notes ring jubilant; & this sunny epistle ^{but that} comes from the pen of a prisoner who did not know tomorrow he might be a martyr.

Joy, in all circumstances & under all trials should be the mood of the Xian. This joy is insistent in its song = "always" ~~this word~~. Paul knew that he had said "always" & that this word covers the darker side of human life. So he said it over again, after pausing in contemplation of sorrow = "again I say rejoice."

all points here.

This joy is capable of being continuous - This joy is independent in its source = "In the Lord" - He is the foundation of real gladness.

Only "in X" is it possible to get a view of life that will stand the shock of sorrow & sin. Paul's joy was not grounded in earthly conditions but in X. No one could rob Paul of X or his joy in X. X satisfied his soul - all in all -

"The Lord is at hand" = power of His Presence.

In X means that our whole being is occupied with, & fastened upon Him - Concentrated on Jesus.

I Now the Impossible Possibility - "Be Careful for nothing" - Impossible injunction.

1 - Easy to give advice for people who are not in trouble - futile as they are easy. "Cheer up!" - But look who this is who gives advice = Paul the prisoner.

2 - meaning of careful = not forethought or provision - but full of care, anxiety, ~~worry~~ worry - "tear the heart"

3 - this is still impossible advice -

II - the Path of Possibility is Prayer - Here is Paul's suggestion -

1 - Christ is the only cure for anxiety of heart. He can calm the fluttering heart that beats with worry & dread. He is the Xian's security in a world of peril & panic, a society of agony & anxiety -

2 - Cure for Anxiety = believing prayer - "But" -

① "In everything" = if a man does not pray about everything, he will worry about most things. The heart is never empty. If not full of G, it will be full of cares -

if a thing is great enough to worry about, it is great enough to talk to G about.

"There is nothing to great for O's power & nothing to small for His Fatherly love."

(2) In everything by prayer = some of us have the notion of prayer as only asking things of O, this is devotion & worship - silent submission, quiet trust -

(3) By prayer & supplication = actual petition for the supply of present wants is meant by supplication.

(4) ~~Be~~ "with thanksgiving" - If one only considers what He has from O - he may forget his worry = Paul & Silas in prison sang praises to O. - [Dissatisfaction with O will chip the wings of prayer]

One thinking nerve can monopolize our attention & make us unconscious of the health of all the rest of the body -

remember 3 things = (1) Love of O; (2) wisdom of O; (3) Power of O.

III - this Path of Prayer Leads to Peace - us 7 -

1- what is it - O's peace - X about to die - my Peace I leave with you -

(2) Passes understanding = It is utterly & entirely beyond man's ability to obtain by himself.

(4)
2 - What Does It Do?

"keep your hearts & minds."

① a military word = shall mount guard, garrison, guard. O's peace, like a sentinel, mounts guard & patrols before the heart's door, keeping worry out.

— Jesus stilled the sea of Galilee.

Hearts filled with the peace of X have no room for anything else.

3 - Where Do we Get It?

"through X Jesus." "made peace through the blood of His cross."

vs
6 - Not have hope for the future, but can feel the strength for the present. (Tear the heart apart)

X is the ~~the~~ only cure for anxiety of heart. He can calm the fluttering heart that palpitates with worry & dread. Come into the presence of O & open your heart to him just as if O did not know all about it.

"with thanks" - dissatisfaction for O will fly the wings of prayer. Jesus ~~still~~ stilled the sea, Galilee - Beautiful tranquility comes to him whose soul rests in X, for the peace of O keeps watch over his life.

In Him you are, as your Fortress of rest & holiness; & while there you rest, this sacred keeper watches the door; the peace of O is sentinel.

not caution, but full of care - The cure for worry = believing prayer - devotion. Supplication = supplicating for one's needs - ~~petition~~ petition

shall keep = from a military ward "shall mount guard." O's peace, like a sentinel, mounts guard & patrols before the heart's door, keeping worry out.

"passeth understanding" = it is utterly & entirely beyond man's ability to obtain by himself.

Voltaire = men are tormented atoms in a bit of mud, devoured by death, a mockery of fate. This world, this theatre of 'pride & wrong', swarms with sick 'fools who talk of happiness.'

incessant in its song = always independent in its source = in the Lord.

A Xian's security in a world of peril & panic, a society of agony & anxiety = all of Russian Pleasants - X is there -

Joy, in all circumstances & under all trials should be the mood of the Xian, & Paul goes on to show how this habit of joy may be obtained.

Here we have the keynote of the epistle. Over & over again Paul strikes this note of joy. "In the Lord." There is no other ground of perpetual optimism - only "in the Lord" is it possible to set a view of life as a whole that will stand the shock of sorrow & sin. Paul knew that he had said "always" & that word, this word ~~times~~ covers the darker side of human life. So he said it over again, after pausing in contemplation of sorrow: "Again I will say, Rejoice." Paul's joy was not grounded in earthly conditions but in X. No one could rob Paul of X or of his joy in X. X satisfied the soul - all in all. Needed nothing else. In the Lord is at hand = Power of His Presence -

This continual refrain of gladness is all the more remarkable if we remember the Apostle's circumstances. Yet out of all the darkness his clear notes ring jubilant; & this sunny epistle comes from the pen of a prisoner who did not know but that tomorrow he might be a martyr. - X is foundation of gladness -

In X means that the whole of our nature shall be occupied with, & fastened upon Him - you cannot concentrate upon Jesus without being filled with gladness. This joy is capable of being continuous - "always!" - find a reason for thankful gladness in all events.