

07 January

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Joy in Christ – week 6

 Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member that a believer's final and eternal destination is heaven and not earth?
2. What is the end of those who are enemies of the cross in v.19? (**Destruction**)
3. What are the characteristics of enemies of the cross in v.19? (**Whose god is their belly, whose glory is in their shame, set their mind on earthly things.**)
4. As citizens of heaven what does Paul remind believers of in v.20 – 21? (**We await the return of Jesus Christ; He will arrange all things to Himself, and that He will give us glorious resurrected bodies.**)

 Let's go deeper

5. What are Paul's words to Euodia and Syntyche in v.2? (**I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to agree and to work in harmony in the Lord - AMP.**)
6. What is Paul's message to the church in v.4? (**Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, rejoice.**)
7. What is Paul's secret to victory over worry and anxiety according to v.6? (... **By prayer and petition with thanksgiving make your requests known to God.**)
8. What is Paul's encouragement to the church in v.7, when they apply prayer, petition, and thanksgiving? (**And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, stands guard "like a soldier" over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**)

 Let's apply this

9. Philippians 4:6; Do not be **anxious or worried** about anything, but in everything by **prayer and petition with thanksgiving**, continue to make your requests known to God.

Anxiety and worry starts in the heart and mind, but the good news is that by prayer, petition and thanksgiving God gives us His peace to guard our hearts and minds and to guide us in His ways.

- How can you talk to God about everything and anything this week?
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the bigness of our Father in heaven.
- Ask a friend to help you this week to make your requests known to God.

SUMMARY:

Joy in Christ: Week 6

Read: Philippians 3:17 – 4:7

v.17 – 19; Who was Paul calling enemies of the cross? Those who added the law of Moses to the finished work of Christ on the cross. And their obedience to the Old Testament dietary laws would make a "god" out of their belly, and their emphasis on circumcision make them to glorying in themselves, which they ought to be ashamed of. And their earthly mindedness holding on to earthly rituals and beliefs, and opposing the heavenly blessings that born-again believers have in Christ.

In v.18 Paul wept because he knew the future of these men: "whose end is destruction" This word carries with it the idea of waste and lostness. A wasted life and an eternity of waste!

v.20 – 21; Believers have a dual citizenship on earth, and in heaven, and our citizenship in heaven ought to make us better people here on earth. As believers we should not hold on or be attracted by the things of this world or what it can offer us. Citizenship is important. When you travel to another country, it is essential that you have a passport that proves your citizenship. Paul reminds the believers that as citizens of heaven they eagerly await the return of Jesus Christ, and that when Jesus returns, He will arrange all things unto Himself, and that we will receive glorious resurrected bodies in heaven.

Chapter 4:1 – 4; With Paul mentioning the names of the two women, and asking specific people to help them to reconcile; it shows the seriousness of their disagreement and disunity. Reconciliation often requires a third-person to intervene. God's answer for when there are disagreements is to rejoice in the Lord. Rejoicing in the Jesus turn our focus to Him and not to each other.

v.5 – 7; What is worry?

The word worry translated "anxious" (careful) in v.6 means "to be pulled in different directions." Our hopes pull us in one direction; our fears pull us the opposite direction; and we are pulled apart! Worry has physical consequences: headaches, neck pains, ulcers, even back pains. Worry affects our thinking, digestion, and coordination. Where does worry and anxiety start? **v.7** tells us in our hearts and minds.

What is Paul's secret to victory over worry in v.6?

Prayer – talking to God about everything. Make your requests known to God.

Petition or supplication – an earnest sharing of our needs and problems.

Thanksgiving – the Father enjoys hearing His children say, "thank you."

Paul was chained to a Roman soldier, guarded day, and night. Likewise, "the peace of God" stands guard over the two areas that create worry – the heart and mind.