



THE PEACE PROMISE

#7: KEPT BY HIS PRESENCE

October 21, 2018

Pastor Keith Jenkins

BIBLICAL TEXT(S)

*"When we enthrone
Jesus, we dethrone
everything else that
stands against him...
anxiety, fear..."*

–Pastor Keith Jenkins

*"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. **The Lord is near.** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. " **(Philippians 4:4-8)***

*"For I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." **(Philippians 1:19-21)***

*"Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.
If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,"
even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.
(Psalm 139:7-12)*

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Paul writes Philippians as a letter of encouragement in the midst of his circumstances. He is experiencing constant adversity, and yet Paul writes a letter to encourage others. There is a sense of peace in knowing who we serve even in the midst (of life's most trying circumstances). Paul was acutely aware of the presence of God, and that gave him hope.

Adam and Eve's greatest blessing was not the garden, but to have nearness with God, unfettered access to their Maker. The first insecurity came in the breaking of relationship with the Lord. Some of our anxieties happen because of a broken relationship with God. We may have tried to sew fig leaves to protect ourselves, only to realize that we are terrible protectors of our own souls. Although the nearness of God was lost to humanity in Adam, it was and restored in Jesus, (Gen 3:6-10; Is 7:14). The rest of the Bible records God's purposes and plans to restore humanity to himself. The Gospel is that God himself comes to save.

We are always in the presence of God! God's presence is a shelter, or place of safety, in the midst of life's storms, (Ps 27:5; 32:7; 62:5-8). The response to encountering God's presence is praise. We need to pursue His presence.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage and the speaker's message, helping them understand and apply the teaching.

LEAN IN

These are icebreaker/warm up questions, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. Share a time in which you experienced peace when you didn't have reason to (if you can't think of an example, think of a person who has displayed peace in the middle of tough times).

LOOK DOWN

These are questions on the passage and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. What do you think gave Paul the confidence to say that he was confident that what happened to him would turn out for his deliverance? (Phil 1:19)
2. What do you think Paul means by, "Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death?" (Phil 1:20)
3. What do you notice about David's contemplation of God's Presence in Ps. 139?

LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. "The Lord is near" was a way of saying that Jesus would be soon returning. How do you think Paul's anticipation of Christ's return oriented his outlook?
2. How would your life change if you were to really trust that God has a purpose for your life in the midst of trials?
3. The name "Immanuel" means "God with us." What does it mean to you that God would become human to be near to humanity?

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. When life's circumstances become difficult, is your first response to turn to God, or are you more aware of the presence of people?
2. How does anticipating Christ's return change your outlook?
3. Adam and Eve sewed fig leaves together when they realized their nakedness. What do you find yourself turning to in order to for protection, or to insulate yourself from the difficulties of life? (Pleasure, prestige, power)
4. What could your life look like if you were to practice being aware of the presence of God throughout the day?

LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life.

Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. What does it look like to host the presence of the Lord? What does it look like to do this on a moment by moment basis?
2. What can you do to remind yourself of the presence of God throughout the day?