

My Notes—Philippians 4:1-9

1 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

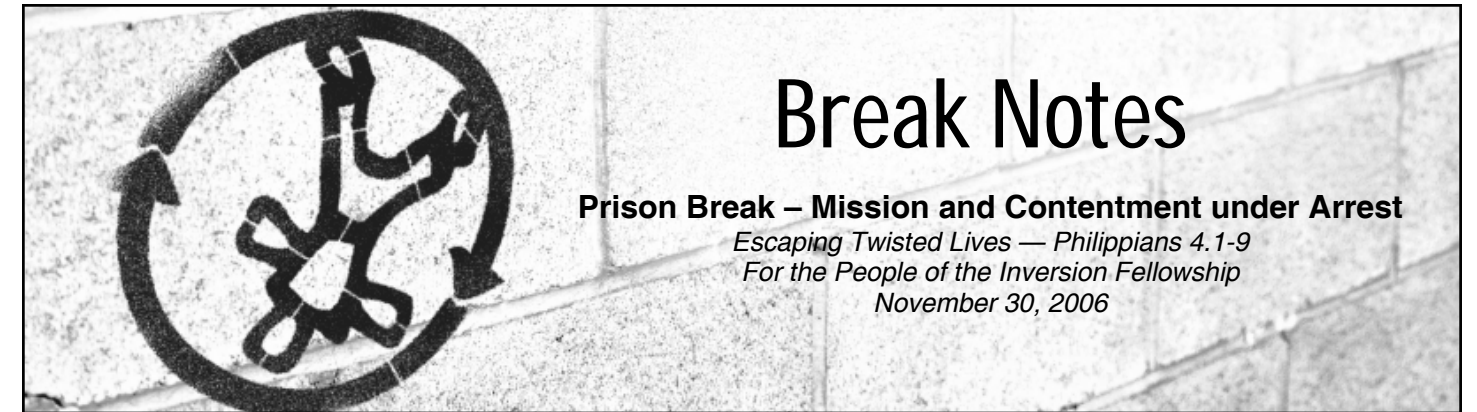
2 I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. 3 Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;

6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.



Break Notes

Prison Break – Mission and Contentment under Arrest

*Escaping Twisted Lives — Philippians 4:1-9
For the People of the Inversion Fellowship
November 30, 2006*

Philippians 4:1-9—Holy Bible, English Standard Version

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Three Things To Consider

Work hard for Unity

Unresolved conflict with a brother or sister in the community is a barrier to intimacy with the Almighty and a degradation to the reputation of Christ. Sometimes a third party is required to help bring resolution to a situation.

Seeking Joy in God is a Command not an Option

One of John Piper's favorite statements is this, "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him." Surprising to some, is the fact that the Bible does not teach us to avoid pleasure, but to seriously pursue it in God.

Peace Comes in Trusting the Sovereign God

If God is sovereign and nothing can separate us from His love (Rom. 8:38) then we as believers ultimately have no reason to be an anxious people. However, merely mentally assenting to these truths will not ease our minds. We must relate deeply with God through prayer, releasing our burdens to Him.

The Junk Drawer

I love and long for, v. 1 - Beloved, dear, but spoken only of Christians as united with God or with each other in the bonds of holy love.¹

Joy and Crown, v. 1 - This is the cause, ground, and occasion of joy (Luke 2:10; Phil. 4:1; 1 Thess. 2:19, 20; James 1:2; 3 John 1:4). Crown - Figuratively, an ornament, honor, glory, that in which one may glory (Phil. 4:1; 1 Thess. 2:19; Prov. 12:4; 16:31; 17:6). (WSD) The metaphor of the crown is used by Paul in another way. He calls the community the crown with which he will appear before the Lord, cf. Phil. 4:1.²

Entreat Euodia and Syntyche, v. 2 - Nothing is known about these women or the dispute between them. Many scholars have attempted to identify them, but the conclusions are all conjecture, and the best course of action is to stay within the bounds of Scripture. Some suggestions may be drawn from the knowledge of Acts and Philippi. Women occupied a prominent place in the church. They were among the first converts. The controversy occurred between two notable women who played a major part in church life. Whatever the cause, several factors emerge about the problem: it was significant enough that the women could not solve it themselves; it probably was not a doctrinal problem since Paul spoke to such matters when they arose; it was divisive enough to cause the church to write to Paul about it; the entire church was asked to intercede on behalf of these women; and the fellowship and ministry of the church faced a major crisis because of it.³

Agree in the Lord, v. 2 - NASB - live in harmony, literally be of same mind; To be mindful of, to be devoted to (Matt. 16:23; Mark 8:33; Rom. 8:5; Phil. 3:19; Col. 3:2).

Rejoice in the Lord Always, v. 4 - As stated previously joy in the Lord is a command, not an option. John Piper is a modern preacher and author who is most helpful in understanding the nature of joy. Here are some of his main theses:

Enjoying God Is Not a Means but an End - It's the very nature of joy to be a spontaneous response to something that you value. Joy comes to you. It rises spontaneously as witness to what you treasure. And therefore, it reveals more authentically than anything what your treasure is. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). Joy is unique in its capacity to witness to what we treasure.

There Is No Such Thing as Hypocritical Joy - There is no such thing as hypocritical joy. There are hypocritical smiles, and hypocritical laughter, and hypocritical testimonies about our joy, and hypocritical good deeds and kind words. But there is no hypocritical joy. Joy is either there as a testimony to what you treasure. Or it isn't there.⁵

The Lord is at hand, v. 5 - Certainly this can be taken as a reference to the immanent return of Christ. Metaphorically it can also mean near or nigh. He is near you or close at hand, meaning ready to help (Rom. 10:8, quoted from Deut. 30:14, Ps. 34:18; 145:18).⁶

The Junk Drawer...Cont.

Prayer, supplication, thanksgiving, requests, v. 6 - Different forms of the words for prayer are stylistic to emphasize the importance of Prayer.⁷ Lack of gratitude is the first step toward idolatry (Rom. 1:21). Thanksgiving for what God has done will engender peace in the midst of tumultuous circumstances.⁸

Peace of God, v. 7 - Metaphorically peace of mind, tranquility, arising from reconciliation with God and a sense of a divine favor (Rom. 5:1; 15:13; Phil. 4:7 [Is. 53:5]).⁹ May mean not only the peace that he gives (cf. Rom. 5:1) but the serenity in which he lives. An inner sense of contentment supplied by God.¹⁰

Surpasses all understanding, v. 7 - (is more superior than) - God's peace transcends our intellectual powers precisely because believers experience it when it is unexpected, in circumstances that make it appear impossible: Paul suffering in prison, the Philippians threatened by quarrels with and by enemies without.¹¹

Guard you hearts and minds, v. 7 - (military term) - In the Hebrew view the heart is the center of one's being, out of which flows all of life (e.g., Mk. 7:21). God's peace will do what instruction in "wisdom" urged the young to do: "Above all else guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life" (Prov. 4:23) In the present context God's peace will be his "garrison" around our hearts when anxiety threatens. It will also guard our "thoughts" - those very thoughts that lead to fear and distress that keep one from trusting prayer.¹²

Whatever is... List of virtues, v. 8 - The list of virtues that Paul asks the Philippians to "think about" is not a distinctively Christian list and could have been embraced by many right-thinking people in ancient times.... This list, with its admonition to look for the virtue in the wider world, reminds the Philippians that, although society sometimes seems hostile and evil, it is still part of God's world and contains much good that the believer can affirm.¹³

References

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11. Silva, *Philippians*, 196.
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