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HOW TO FIND JOY IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE



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President – Chafer Theological Seminary

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Answering Ten Questions 

- 1) Who wrote it? – Paul
- 2) To Whom was it written? – The Believers at Philippi
- 3) Where was it written from? – Rome
- 4) When was it written? – A.D. 62
- 5) What was the book's occasion? – Five contacts
- 6) Who are the opponents? – Four opponents threatening joy
- 7) What is the book's purpose? – To give joy during adversity
- 8) How is it organized (outline)? – Four-part outline
- 9) What is it about? – Joy during adversity
- 10) What makes the book different? – Personal & informal

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Outline


- Ch 1 – God can use negative circumstances to bring about positive results
- Ch 2 – Christ's example of servanthood
- Ch 3 – Avoiding legalism
- Ch 4 – Reliance upon Christ's strength for daily life



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4 Positive Results of Imprisonment
(Phil. 1:12-30)

1. Captive audience (Phil. 1:12-13)
2. Church's boldness in preaching (Phil. 1:14-18)
3. Greater prayer (Phil. 1:19)
4. Protection from martyrdom (Phil. 1:20-26)



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4 Examples of Humble Service
(Phil. 2)


1. Christ (Phil. 2:5-16)
2. Paul (Phil. 2:17-18)
3. Timothy (Phil. 2:19-24)
4. Epaphroditus (Phil. 2:25-30)



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- Ch 1 – God can use negative circumstances to bring about positive results
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Avoid Legalism
(Phil. 3)


1. Legalists vs. true believers (Phil. 3:1-3)
2. Paul’s transition away from legalism (Phil. 3:4-14)
3. Other items to embrace in lieu of legalism (Phil. 3:15-4:3)



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Other Items to Embrace in Lieu of Legalism
(Phil. 3:15-4:3)


- Maturity (Phil. 3:15-16)
- Avoiding license (Phil. 3:17-19)
- Heavenly and eternal perspective (Phil. 3:20-21)
- Unity (Phil. 4:1-3)



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Draw Upon the Divine Resources for Daily life
(Phil. 4)

- Peace (Phil. 4:4-9)
- Contentment (Phil. 4:10-13)
- Provision (Phil. 4:14-19)



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Draw Upon the Divine Resources for Daily life
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- **Peace (Phil. 4:4-9)**
- Contentment (Phil. 4:10-13)
- Provision (Phil. 4:14-19)



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| EPHESIANS: WHAT IS INSIDE? | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| 1-3 | 4-6 |
| Relationship | Responsibility |
| No imperatives | 35 imperatives |
| Orthodoxy | Orthopraxy |
| Knowledge | Wisdom |
| Belief | Behavior |
| Position | Practice |
| Privileges | Responsibility |

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Ephesians 4:1

Therefore...

1-3  4-6

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Romans 12:1

Therefore...

1-11  12-16

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Galatians 5:1


Therefore...

1-4  5-6

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Peace
(Phil. 4:4-9)


- I. Prerequisites for Peace (Phil. 4:4-6)
- II. Presence of Peace (Phil. 4:7)
- III. Protection of Peace (Phil. 4:8-9)



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Peace
(Phil. 4:4-9)


- I. **Prerequisites for Peace (Phil. 4:4-6)**
- II. Presence of Peace (Phil. 4:7)
- III. Protection of Peace (Phil. 4:8-9)



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I. Prerequisites for Peace
(Phil. 4:4-6)

- A. Joy (Phil. 4:4)
- B. Gentleness (Phil. 4:5a)
- C. Awareness of God's nearness (Phil. 4:5b)
- D. Prayer (6)



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I. Prerequisites for Peace
(Phil. 4:4-6)

- A. **Joy (Phil. 4:4)**
- B. Gentleness (Phil. 4:5a)
- C. Awareness of God's nearness (Phil. 4:5b)
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I. Prerequisites for Peace
(Phil. 4:4-6)

- A. Joy (Phil. 4:4)
- B. **Gentleness (Phil. 4:5a)**
- C. Awareness of God's nearness (Phil. 4:5b)
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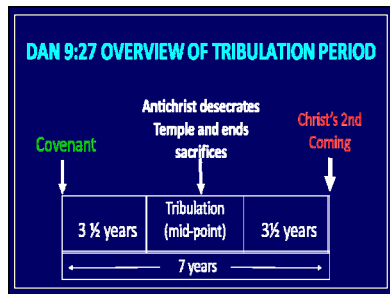
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I. Prerequisites for Peace
(Phil. 4:4-6)

- A. Joy (Phil. 4:4)
- B. Gentleness (Phil. 4:5a)
- C. **Awareness of God's nearness (Phil. 4:5b)**
- D. Prayer (6)




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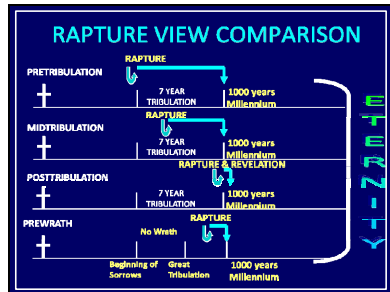
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When Will the Rapture Take Place?

- Pre-tribulation Rapture Theory
- Mid-tribulation Rapture Theory
- Post-tribulation Rapture Theory
- Pre-wrath Rapture Theory
- Partial Rapture Theory



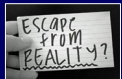
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Pretribulationism is not Escapism

- Trials (John 16:33)
- Man's wrath (2 Tim 3:12)
- Satan's wrath (Eph 6:11-12)
- World's wrath (John 15:18-19)



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I. Prerequisites for Peace
(Phil. 4:4-6)


- A. Joy (Phil. 4:4)
- B. Gentleness (Phil. 4:5a)
- C. Awareness of God's nearness (Phil. 4:5b)
- D. **Prayer (6)**



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Outline

- **Ch 1 – God can use negative circumstances to bring about positive results**
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(Phil. 4:4-9)


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- II. **Presence of Peace (Phil. 4:7)**
- III. Protection of Peace (Phil. 4:8-9)



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(Phil. 4:4-9)


- I. Prerequisites for Peace (Phil. 4:4-6)
- II. Presence of Peace (Phil. 4:7)
- III. **Protection of Peace (Phil. 4:8-9)**



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III. Protection of Peace
(Phil. 4:8-9)


- A. Content of a Disciplined Thought Life (Phil. 4:8)
- B. Practice of a Disciplined Thought Life (Phil. 4:9)



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III. Protection of Peace
(Phil. 4:8-9)

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| Three Tenses of Salvation | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Phase | Justification | Sanctification | Glorification |
| Tense | Past | Present | Future |
| Saved from sin's: | Penalty | Power | Presence |
| Scripture | Eph 2:8-9; Titus 3:5 | Phillip 2:12 | Rom 5:10 |
| Nature | Single | Dual | Single |

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Lewis Sperry Chafer
Notes from an unpublished lecture at Dallas Theological Seminary in the Spiritual Life course given in 1948 speaking to his students, those who he was training to become ministers.

“Now you have the country just filled with preachers. If you could have stopped in to all the services that were held last Sunday between the Atlantic and the Pacific you would have heard a mess of sermons. All of them can be boiled down to just two words—be good. But how many sermons were preached last Sunday that tell people how to be good. They just don’t know anything about that; that involves the plan of deliverance from the reigning power of sin and I have tried to tell you that that is one of the most neglected things—how to be good...”

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“God has a way, a plan and a provision but you must know and understand it and I’m just ambitious enough to hope that you men are going to get out there and teach it. Don’t say it’s too big of a job to make the average audience understand; they have to understand if they are to walk as Christians.”

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Galatians 3:3

“Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?”



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Avoid Legalism
(Phil. 3)

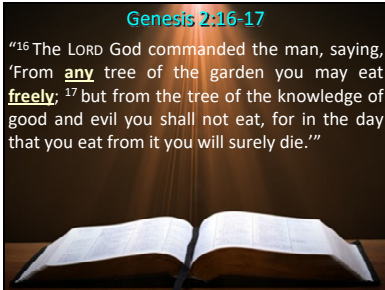
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Genesis 2:16-17

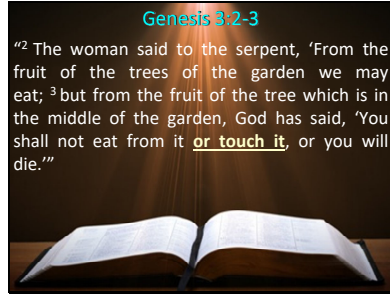
“¹⁶The LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; ¹⁷but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.’”



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Genesis 3:2-3

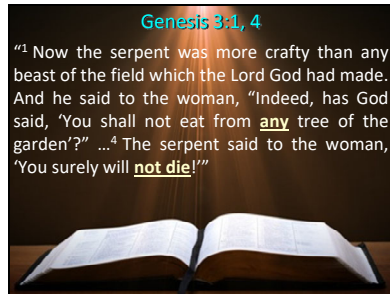
"² The woman said to the serpent, 'From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; ³ but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'"



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Genesis 3:1, 4

"¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'" ...⁴ The serpent said to the woman, 'You surely will not die!'"



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2 Cor. 11:3

COMPLICATION OF THE SIMPLE

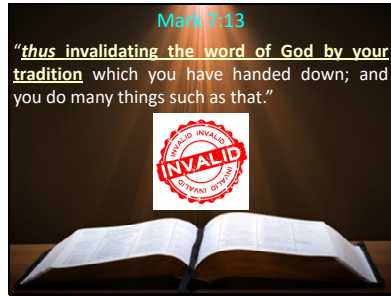
"But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted by from the simplicity that is in Christ." (Italics mine)



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Mark 7:13

"thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that."



The image shows an open book with a red circular stamp that says 'INVALID' in the center. The stamp also has the words 'INVALID', 'INVALID', and 'INVALID' around the perimeter. The book is open, and the pages are visible.

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What to Meditate Upon? – 8 Descriptions
(Phil. 4:8)

1. True
2. Honorable
3. Right
4. Pure
5. Lovely
6. Good repute
7. Excellent
8. Worthy of Praise




The image is a graphic with a silhouette of a human head in profile. Inside the head, the text reads 'THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS. PHILIPPIANS 4:8'. There is a small '4:8' logo in the bottom right corner of the graphic.

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III. Protection of Peace
(Phil. 4:8–9)

A. Content of a Disciplined Thought Life (Phil. 4:8)

B. Practice of a Disciplined Thought Life (Phil. 4:9)



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- Ch 1 – God can use negative circumstances to bring about positive results
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4 Examples of Humble Service
(Phil. 2)

1. Christ (Phil. 2:5-16)
2. **Paul (Phil. 2:17-18)**
3. Timothy (Phil. 2:19-24)
4. Epaphroditus (Phil. 2:25-30)



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Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, **Prince of Peace.**⁷ There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.




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Conclusion


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Peace
(Phil. 4:4-9)

- i. Prerequisites for Peace (Phil. 4:4-6)
- ii. Presence of Peace (Phil. 4:7)
- iii. Protection of Peace (Phil. 4:8-9)



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"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace." (NIV)

Intro

Rom. 5:1-Therefore, having been justified by faith, **we have peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 14:27-**Peace** I leave with you; My **peace** I give to you; **not as the world gives** do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

Matt. 8:23-27-²³ When He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him. ²⁴ And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being covered with the waves; but Jesus Himself was asleep. ²⁵ And they came to *Him* and woke Him,

saying, “Save *us*, Lord; we are perishing!” ²⁶ He *said to them, “Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?” Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm. ²⁷ The men were amazed, and said, “What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”

Mark 4:35-38-³⁵ On that day, when evening came, He *said to them, “Let us go over to the other side.” ³⁶ Leaving the crowd, they *took Him along with them in the boat, just as He was; and other boats were with Him. ³⁷ And there *arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up. ³⁸ Jesus Himself was in the stern, **asleep on the cushion**; and they woke Him and *said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?” ³⁹ And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Hush, be still.” And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. ⁴⁰ And He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?” ⁴¹ They became very much afraid and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?”

Gal. 2:20-I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

5

Gal. 5:22-23-²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ **gentleness**, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Prov. 15:1-A **gentle** answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

2 Chron. 16:9-For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.”

Philip. 3:20-For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ

Jas. 5:8-9-⁸ You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

6

Heb. 11:6-And **without faith it is impossible to please *Him***, for he who comes to God must **believe** that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Rev. 21:8-But for the **cowardly and unbelieving** and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part *will be* in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

Prov. 28:1-The wicked flee when no one is pursuing, But the righteous are bold as a lion.

Matt. 6:11-13-‘**Give us this day our daily bread.**

¹² ‘And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ ‘And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]’]

1 Pet. 5:7-casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

7

John 14:27- Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

Philip. 1:7-For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in **my imprisonment** and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me.

Eph. 6:20-for which **I am an ambassador in chains;** that in *proclaiming* it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

8

Philip. 3:1-**Finally**, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things *again* is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you.

Prov. 23:7-**For as he thinks within himself, so he is.** He says to you, “Eat and drink!” But his heart is not with you.

Col. 3:2-Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

Ps. 1:3-But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he **meditates** day and night.

Josh. 1:8-This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall **meditate** on it day and night, so that you may be

careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

9

Philip. 2:17-But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all.

Philip. 3:6-as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

1 Cor. 11:1-Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

Rom. 5:1-Therefore, having been justified by faith, **we have peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Matt. 28:20-teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and **lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**

Heb. 13:5- *Make sure that* your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "**I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU.**"

Conclusion

Num. 6:24-26- The LORD bless you, and keep you;

²⁵ The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; ²⁶ The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.