



Rejoice In The Lord Always!

Sermon-based Guide for Reflection and Discussion Week of February 27

Scripture: **Philippians 4:8-9**

Sermon Title: *“Receive the Benediction”*

When I read these words (and especially as Paul uses himself as an example) I go back to what we read just the week before: “Let your gentleness be known to everyone.” This is the way of gentleness. This is the way of living a holistic and holy life. This is the aspiration for all followers of Christ.

This is how each of us should be known, and how our church should be known: honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, excellent, and worthy of praise. None of these attributes are either/or, all of them are to be lived in congruity with each other.

The end result: peace. The God of peace that will be with us.

Questions:

1. Imagine that you are a member of the church in Philippi when this letter is first read. What would it mean to you for Paul to address you as “beloved”? What do you think Paul is expressing by using that term?
2. Paul speaks to both **thinking on things** and **doing things**. In your own life is there congruity between your **thinking** and your **doing**?
3. The payoff in this series of tender instructions is “the God of peace will be with you.” How much do you long to experience the presence of the “God of peace”? How does God’s presence and peace shape you? Or, how do you hope it would shape you?