



WHATEVER HAPPENS! "Don't Worry" Philippians 4:4-9

No. 3817

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Life is full of anxiety-producing situations. We should be neither surprised nor dismayed by this reality. But we should know how to handle them rather than be ruled by them.

I. The Problems.

- A. Paul was in prison. 1:13
- B. Society was in a mess. 2:15
- C. Epaphroditus had been sick. 2:27
- D. Opposition was increasing. 3:2
- E. Commitment was shallow. 3:18f
- F. Relationships were strained. 4:2-3

II. The Protocol.

- A. "Rejoice in the Lord always." v. 4
 - 1. Recognize who He is. 3:20
 - 2. Relate to what He does. 3:21
 - 3. Rejoice that you're "in Him."
- B. Develop a reputation for magnanimity. v. 5a
 - 1. Rather than sticking to the letter of the law...
 - 2. Show everyone some "sweet reasonableness."
- C. Recognize "the Lord is near." v. 5b
 - 1. Near in space.
 - 2. Near in time.
- D. Don't be anxious about anything. v. 6
 - 1. Legitimate concern. 2:20
 - 2. Unwarranted worry.
 - 3. Pray about everything.
 - a. Prayer.
 - b. Petitions.
 - c. Requests.
 - 4. Pray with thanksgiving: you will be heard and answered.
- E. Fix your mind on the right things. v. 8
- F. Do what you know: you heard and you saw, now do. v. 9

III. The Promises.

- A. The peace of God will guard you. v. 7
 - 1. Peace of God: a divine attribute.
 - 2. Beyond human calculation or invention.
 - 3. Guarding both mind and heart.
- B. The peace of God will be with you.
 - 1. To supply you with strength for the task. Romans 16:20
 - 2. To provide sufficiency for the day. Hebrews 13:20

Point to Ponder: Am I prone to panic or living at peace?