

## **Divine Nearness**

### **Introduction.**

1. Years ago Paul penned the words beautiful and meaningful words. (Phil. 4:4-7).

Phil 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

Phil 4:5 Let your gentle {spirit} be known to all men. The Lord is near.

Phil 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Phil 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

2. In the midst of these inspirational words we have the words, "The Lord is near."
3. These words should not be separated from the context, but are connected and closely related to the other statements that cluster about it.

### **The Lord Is Near**

1. Let us examine the meaning of the words "The Lord is near."
2. Do these words mean Jesus was about to come?
  - a. This is not the meaning of "the Lord is near."
  - b. Jesus had earlier taught that Jesus will come without warning.
  - c. He also taught that only His Father knows when Jesus will come again. (Matt. 24:36).
  - d. There is nothing in the context that would require or demand Paul was speaking of an immediate return of Jesus.
3. Some have the false notion that the omnipresent Christ is far away sitting at the right hand of God.
  - a. It is true Jesus is at the right hand of God, but it does not mean His presence is limited to God's right hand.
  - b. One who is Omnipresent is everywhere and a person cannot escape One who is Omnipresent. (Psa. 139:7-10).

Ps 139:7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

Ps 139:8 If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.

Ps 139:9 If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,

Ps 139:10 Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me.

- c. These words were spoken in context about God, but they are true of the Son and the Holy Spirit who are also Deity.
  - d. Men can be only in one place at a time, but this is not true of Deity.
4. “The Lord is near”
- a. He does not dwell millions or billions of miles away leaving us to live and struggle alone.
  - b. No person in all the world is as near as the Lord except for the Father and the Holy Spirit.
  - c. A great poet once said, “Closer is he than breathing, nearer than hands and feet.”
  - d. The apostle Paul said, “He is not far from each one of us.” (Acts 17:27-,28).

Acts 17:27 that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

Acts 17:28 for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.'

- e. These words are true of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

### **Preciousness Of “The Lord Is Near”**

- 1. The Lord who loves us is within reach.
- 2. He is near and always accessible.

- a. He sees us.

1) Not even a sparrow falls to the ground without His notice.

2) Nothing escapes the all-seeing eyes of God or the Son as Deity. (Prov. 15:3; Heb. 4:13).

Prov 15:3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Watching the evil and the good.

Heb 4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

- b. He speaks to us.

1) He speaks to us through nature. All nature declares His existence and His glory. (Psa. 19:1).

2) He speaks to us through the Bible. God’s will for our lives is revealed in the sacred scriptures. When we read them we hear His voice. (2 Tim. 3:16,17; 2 Pet. 1:21).

2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

2 Tim 3:17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

2 Pet 1:21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

- c. The Lord listens when we speak. (Psa. 116:1; 1 Pet. 3:12; Matt. 7:7-11).
- d. The Lord helps us. (Psa. 46:1; 55:22; 121:1,2; 147:3; 1 Cor. 10:13).
- e. In every worthy endeavor, He will support and sustain us. (Heb. 13:5b, 6).

Heb 13:5b He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"  
Heb 13:6 so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?"

- 3. Truly these scriptures that manifest the nearness of the Lord and His readiness to help and support us should be precious to us.
- 4. The Lord is never far away, but He is always near.

### **How We Should Live In View Of The Fact “The Lord Is Near.”**

- 1. We should live in **perpetual joy**. (Phil. 3:1; 4:4).
  - a. We should always rejoice because the Lord is always near.
  - b. We should live in perpetual joy because our sins have been washed away and Jesus is our Savior.
- 2. We should live in **gentleness**.

Phil 4:5 Let your gentle {spirit} be known to all men. The Lord is near.

- a. Let us be gentle in the treatment of all men - our friends, our enemies, our debtors, the converted, the unconverted.
- b. Let us forbear wrath and retaliation.
  - 1) The Judge is near.
  - 2) Let us leave all differences for Him to adjust and settle. (Rom. 12:18-21).

Rom 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

Rom 12:19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath {of God,} for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.

Rom 12:20 "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD."

Rom 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

- 3. We should live **above anxious care**.
  - a. “In nothing be anxious” (Phil. 4:6).

b. Jesus said. (Matt. 6:25-34).

1) Jesus admonishes us not to be anxious and fretful.

2) The Father is near. He is near.

3) He who takes care of the birds of the heaven and the lilies of the field will take care of us.

4) It is sinful and foolish for us to fret and be over anxious.

4. We should **live in communion**. (Phil. 4:7).

a. How unbecoming for us to remain silent when One so dear is so near!

b. Anxiety should be turned into prayer.

c. By conversing with the Lord and living to please Him, we find relief.

### **Conclusion.**

1. The grand consequence of living in perpetual joy, of living in gentleness, of living above anxious care, of living in communion is seen in verse 7 of our text.

a. It is the peace of God. (Phil. 4:7).

Phil 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

b. What a blessing it is to have peace “which surpasses all comprehension.”

c. What a motivation for living a life to the glory of the Lord.

2. This incomprehensible peace and joy is ours “in Christ Jesus.”

3. He is the One who died for us and shed His precious blood for us.

4. Without Him we cannot have a meaningful life and without Him we will never find real happiness.

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