

**MORNING SERMON OUTLINE**  
**RIGHT THINKING & RIGHT ACTING**  
**Philippians 4:8-9**

All of Philippians 4:4-9 is one piece – inviting and showing Christian believers how to have joy in the Lord and peace of mind in a fallen & sinful world. The desired fruit of the Gospel & of faith in Christ is expressed in Romans 14:17 where the Spirit tells us that “*the Kingdom of God is ... righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.*”

In verses 4-7 Paul tells us that joy comes “in the Lord” & peace of mind comes from God as we bring our cares to Him in prayer with thanksgiving.

Now in verses 8-9 Paul gives us the antidotes to certain habits of mind that undermine & kill joy and peace.

**1. Joy & Peace-killers: Harmful habits of mind**

Looking only at what is wrong – in the world, in the church, in yourself.

The danger of so emphasizing the reality of sin, fall, curse, depravity (for the sake of the gospel), that that is ALL we see.

We can bemoan our wretched sinfulness to the point of joyless agony, and complain about the state of the world -

and in so doing, not only lose our joy & peace,

but drag everyone around down into our gray, dark cellar.

That is NOT being “lights in the world” for Christ (Phil.2:15).

**2. Antidotes: a right focus of thinking & right acting**

**a. Things to ponder & meditate on ....**

A list of qualities & virtues that we see perfectly in Christ, that God is working in believers & the church, and even that God preserves in the world around.

Sanctifying grace in the church & common grace in the world tell us God is in control and carrying out His redeeming will - cause for joy in the Lord & thanks to God.

**b. A way of life to pursue ...**

Not only Paul for the Philippians,

but generation by generation God gives sound teachers to His church, and godly examples of joyful holy living (Heb.13:7).

Put their lessons into practice –

not passive recipients, but active doers.

*WE* can't make the world a better place or solve its problems.

But we can & should by God's grace try to make *ourselves* better people for the sake of the honor of Christ.

(And it might please God to use you to make a difference.)

Don't focus on what is out of your hands,

but on what God has called you to do:

keep His Word of grace & grow in Christ & in obedience to Him.

**3. God's promise: The God of peace will be with you (see vs.7)**