

Hey guys,

So we have been off school for a couple of weeks now. It seems that everyday something else is shutting down. We are all supposed to be in lockdown in our homes right now. It is kind of a freaky time right now in our lives. This has never happened before in history were so many businesses have been closed because of a virus. At this point, a lot of people are anxious and wondering what is going to happen. Is God really in control?

Let's look in Philippians:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

This is written by Paul at the point of his missionary journey where he was locked up in a Roman prison. If you were to look back at Philippians 1:20, Paul believes his death is coming. So Paul was free and then he lost everything. This was all for the purpose of spreading the Gospel. So, if anyone has a reason to be anxious, it would be Paul. But look what he writes.

Paul starts by rejoicing in the Lord. How many of us wake up every day and are thankful to the Lord during this time? How many of us are even actively putting our trust in the Lord at this time? We need to put this whole situation in the God's hands and stop being anxious and worried. How many people would say that you are living this way? Look at what vs 5 says; 'let your reasonableness be known to everyone.' Paul is expecting to die, yet he is praising God and talking about being reasonable. I don't know how you guys feel, but that is pretty much the opposite of what I would naturally do if I was expecting to die soon. I would probably be looking for a way to get out of the situation. Most likely running around like a chicken with its head cut off would be a better analogy. How is Paul able to keep a clear head at this time? It is not by his own will. He tells us in the next verse to do everything by prayer and supplication. The definition of supplication is: the action of asking or begging for something earnestly or humbly. When you are praying, please remember that you are praying to our heavenly Father. He is worthy. He is in control. We need to trust in Him for and through all things.

Look at Matthew 6:25-34

So yes, the Bible does speak to these things we may be feeling. What we need to do is put our trust in Him fully. Look at how verse 7 closes out this passage, and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Always remember that this virus is no surprise to God. He knew it was coming and He knows what is going to happen in the future. He is in control.

So as we go through these next couple of weeks and maybe longer, I will be posting little lessons and videos on a link that will be on the Country Christian web site. Give it a looksee. Also I challenge each one of you to dive into your Bible each end every day. If you are a high schooler, go ahead and finish working your way through the Galatians book. I am trying to see if I can post the middle school youth lessons on the page.

I miss you guys!

In Christ

Gary Truax

Country Christian youth leader