

Sermon Notes – Contemporary Service, December 28, 2014, Pastor Mike Kenney

“New Year, New Joy”

Please note: These are notes from the sermon for your review, not the actual sermon as it was presented.

Philippians 4:4-9 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

⁴ Rejoice^[a] (**Farewell**) in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice (**Farewell**).^[b] ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry 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.

⁸ Finally, beloved (**brothers**),^[c] whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about (**take account of**)^[d] these things. ⁹ Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

A year ago, I gave the sermon on this same Sunday and the topic was on making your New Years Resolution. So I ask, who here made one? How did it turn out for you? Not good at all as I am sure because none that I ever made came through either.

In a few days we will be celebrating a new year again and I wanted to help you write a better New Years Resolution, in fact the best one you have ever made! The difference is that scripture has already written it for you!

Our bulletin insert should have a place for you to take notes. I strongly encourage you to get this out now. Make bullet points of the scripture and what I share with you to help you write your New Year Resolution! Also, if you have access to a bible, please get this out and follow along

Starting off in verse 4, “⁴ Rejoice^[a] (**Farewell**) in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice (**Farewell**).^[b]” Here is it say to Rejoice always, how often do we do this? We all know we need to be more joyous in all we do. But digging into this a little deeper, there is a foot note at the bottom of our bibles that says it can also be translated into “Farewell”. Farewell in the Lord, that tells me to always leave in the Lord. When we say goodbye to someone, we usually just say, “later” or “C-ya”. But do we ever leave in the presence of God? Do we pray when we leave our company? So the first resolution I recommend writing down in that bullet point format, “Leave in the presence of God ALWAYS”.

Next in verse 5, "Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near." How do people see you? do they see this Christ-like gentleness in your every day life? Or do they see your mean face fist shaking road rage appearance. We need to show this gentleness so that others can see Christ in us. The Lord is near.....always watching.....Kinda a creepy to think about but its true! This is meant to put you in the mindset that God is always there. Kind of like as kids our parents would always say they were always here and around ...eyes in the back of their heads. How many times do we see kids on their best behavior when the parents are around and when the parents leave the room the act all crazy and misbehave?! We are the same way, when we don't treat as if God is around us, we begin to act all crazy and misbehave. How would our attitude and outward demeanor change if we took into account that God is always with us! Bullet point #2 – Shine! Let people see Jesus in you through your actions.

In Verse 6 & 7, "6Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.", this is the biggest struggle we all face, we all worry about way too much and do not pray about things as much as we should. We have to talk to God about all things. Jesus even said you cannot add one second to your life by worrying so why worry? When we focus on worrying we are no longer focusing on God. And the reward for doing this is we will have the peace of Jesus in our hearts. I cannot explain what an awesome feeling it is to experience this peace in your heart. No one can explain. It is better than any Touchdown Sunset (see what I did there). Bullet point # 3 – Worry less Pray More

self testimony on being miserable w/out Christ in heart

New years resolution point # 4

Finally, beloved (**brothers**),^[c] whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about (**take account of**)^[d] these things. **Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.**

Here in closing on the final point, we are encourage to focus on the positive and give praise for it! It goes back to focusing on the positive and not the negative things in life. I want to re-read it again and I am going to slow down and pause at each comma. Listen reflect on what sticks out to you most in this part of the scripture. *re read it*

We should give praise in all situations. When we discipline ourselves to do this, we then can get that peace of Jesus in our hearts. How amazing is it! That once we do these things the "God of peace will be with you"

1. Always leave in the presence of God
2. Shine! Let people see Jesus in you through your actions.
3. Worry less Pray More
4. Focus on the positive not the negative so that the God of peace will be with you.

Notes on reading the footnotes at bottom of bible pages from College class

"*OR "The Hebrew text is not in question; the alternative is a different way of translating the Hebrew (or Aramaic) into English."

* The ancient Greek version of the Old Testament, the Septuagint (abbreviated LXX). Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible completed approximately 2nd century B.C.E. Thought to be the primary version of scripture known to Jesus and the authors of the New Testament. Also known as the LXX*

The Septuagint, so-called because of the tradition that it was translated by seventy scholars working independently, who all came up with exactly the same Greek wording for the original Hebrew text. "LXX" is the Roman numeral for seventy"