

Refrigerator Notes 15 October 2017

Do Not Worry!
Philippians 4:1-9

1. Paul the apostle writes the 'Complimentary Closing' to his epistle, to the Church of Philippi, while he is awaiting trial.
2. The fact that Paul is writing this letter from prison means he is uncertain himself of what his fait accompli' (actions that are irreversible that affect someone before they hear about it).
3. He has no clue what his current destiny or demised will be but he is not worry.
4. In the mist of his suffering and the possibility of death, Paul major concern is not for himself but for the Church of Philippi.
5. The Philippians are facing outward opposition and Paul is wanting the church to come together in unity and harmony to counteract the internal disharmony that is occurring within the body.
6. Few of us are strangers to anxiety, It creeps in over big and little things, gnawing away at our insides.
7. The truth be told there are three things that we feel anxious about: Finances, Health and our Children and their future.
8. Paul's letter reminds us of a great patriarch who also wrote a letter from the Birmingham Jail entitle the 'Negro is your Brother', which is an open letter written April 16, 1963 _ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
9. Dr. King should have been concern about the welfare of his family left in Georgia (the death threats that his wife field constantly on the phone), yet he was more concern about those involved in the Montgomery Bus Boycott in a fight to end segregation and voting discrimination.
10. I mention professor H Richard Niebuhr, who wrote an essay, which he entitled "The Urgency of the Question.' The urgency of the question was aimed at the church's lack of responsibility to act accordingly to bring issues of social justice to the forefront.
11. In our text, Paul the prisoner tells us how: To experience God's peace instead of anxiety, pray with thankfulness about every concern "Be anxious for nothing."
12. We must practice prayer (thanksgiving, supplication, thanksgiving and requests) with thankfulness about every concern.
13. When we pray, we are promised God's incomprehensive peace that surpasses all understanding
14. Paul is talking about is the peace that comes from the God who is never subject to anxiety, because He is the sovereign, omnipotent Creator and Lord of the universe.
15. Do you know God's peace in the midst of situations that the world gets anxious about?
16. If not, examine yourself: Is your faith in Him and your focus on His kingdom, rather than on selfish pursuits?
17. Have you drawn near to God in reverent, specific, thankful prayer?
18. When we pray, remember we come face to face with God, His presence, and there is nothing to great for God to understand but more than that, God knows all about your troubles.
19. Just give God your troubles, and remember.
20. You can place your full weight on God!