**“Joy, Peace, & Purity”**

Going deeper in Philippians 4:4-9

**INTRODUCTION** – At this point in Paul’s letter to the church in Philippi he has just finished briefly addressing a conflict between a couple of individuals in the church in Philippi. He has asked them to address this head on with compassion and grace for all parties. In the following passage he immediately turns back to speaking to the whole church about their lives together in the Lord Jesus Christ.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 4 Rejoice in the Lord at all times. I will say it again, Rejoice! 5 Let your kindness be known to all since the Lord is near. 6 Don’t be anxious, but be at peace by bringing your urgent appeals through prayer with thanksgiving to God. Let him know your requests. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is worthy of respect, whatever is pure, whatever is just, whatever is loving, whatever is commendable, if anything is worthy of praise fill your mind with these things. 9 Whatever you learned, received, heard, or saw in me put into practice and the peace of God will be with you.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. In practical terms what do you think it meant for the Apostle Paul in prison in Rome to “Rejoice in the Lord at all times.?” What does it mean for you in your life?

2. What kind of things do you think Paul did to help him rejoice in his circumstances? What helps you?

3. What are the two different paths to personal peace in this passage? Why both?

4. According to verse 8 what are the things you are supposed to think about or fill your mind with? What helps you with controlling your thought life? If you are in a small group share with one another what helps and talk about ways that you might help one another in this ongoing part of the Christian life.

5. Why does Paul use himself as an example to be followed? What if every Christian tried to live in ways that were worth imitating? What kind of impact would that have on the people around them? Our town? Our world?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Ask the Lord Jesus Christ to help you to trust in him as the source of joy today.

\*Ask the Lord Jesus Christ to help you to be the person of peace today.

\*Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you and empower you to live a life worth imitating today.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

The practice of joy, peace, and purity are intrinsic to your journey with Jesus. What are the practical things that you will do this week to make each of these more integral to your Christian life?