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## How do I picture peace?

- Peace is when my health difficulties are gone.
- Peace is when I finally found a spouse.
- Peace is when I don't have to work so much.
- Peace is when I have more free time.
- Peace is when I have financial freedom.
- Peace is when things are calmer.



#### God's Promise:

"And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"

Philippians 4.7



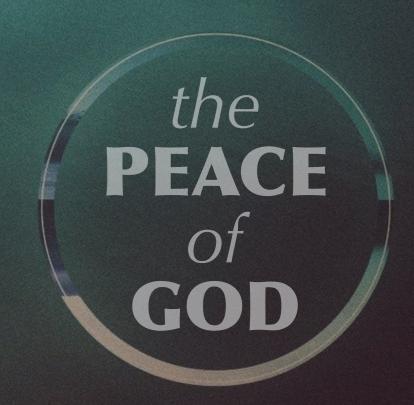
#### The Peace of God:

- Shares an inseparable relationship with prayer Phil. 4.6
- Seeks (and finds) opportunities for rejoicing 4.4
  - We don't simply wait for opportunities to rejoice to spontaneously descend upon us; rather, we seek them!
  - Discouraged by two; encouraged by Clement!
- Can be made difficult by others 4.2
  - Still could rejoice ("shared my struggle")



### The Peace of God:

- Is not dependent on external circumstances 4.11-13
  - Where is Paul? (1.12-14)
  - What is he experiencing? (4.14-17)
    - I can be a vessel of peace to others
- Finds its fulfillment in Jesus 3.7-11
- Calls our attention forward 3.13-14
- Is shared by a Christlike mind 2.1-5



#### What is Peace?

It's not perfect health. "The loss of all things"

Paul was a bachelor It's not the perfect spouse.

It's not hours and hours of weekly free time.

It's not a bank account that allows for anything I want to do.

"A gift...for my needs"

It's not a quiet and placid environment.

"My imprisonment"

#### The Peace of God:

"Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account. But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God."

(Philippians 4:17-18)

This peace of God is an inner assurance, regardless of external circumstance, that I have what I need and that God is well-pleased.