

SERMON SUMMARY

Date: August 27, 2006	11:00 am Worship Service
Preacher: Rev. Donald Lawrence	Reference: Philippians 4: 2-9
Topic: Rejoicing In The Lord – Enjoying Calm	



In lieu of things that may be swirling around us everyday, one has to wonder how easy or difficult it is to maintain one's cool. This seems to be a concern in this portion of scripture as Paul was giving a charge to counter:

1. **Division** – between two leading woman in the church (in Philippi woman in the church had risen to prominence in the church)
2. **Despair** - Paul was a prisoner
3. **Degradation** - pressure to fall prey to the vices of life.

Despite these circumstances, Paul still presented the message of a charge to embrace certain principles. The first was a charge to **embrace the fellowship** as seen in verses 2-3. This embracing of the fellowship is expressed in the form of pleas for:

- Agreement in the Lord (*verse 2*)
- Assistance in the Lord (*verse 3a*)
- Awareness in the Lord - of their calling with others and their conversion with others (*verse 3b*)

These pleas create the need to address our condition in the Lord and to live up to our responsibility to God. We are called to be a body.

Secondly, Paul presents the charge to **embrace the faith** as seen in verse 4-7. To embrace faith encompasses celebrating, contemplating and commending life in God in all circumstances as well as ensuring that we are covered for life by God for all circumstances. This demands that we live by our resource in God for we are called to boldness.

Finally, Paul presents a charge to **embrace the finest** as seen in verses 8-9. At a closer look, he seems to highlight some traits to attain to. Finally (he seems to say) be:

- Dwelling on Lofty (*verse 8*)
- Disciple of the Leader (*verse 9a*)
- Defended by the Lord (*verse 9b*)

This seems to be a call to address our character for The Lord, which demands that we live for recognition by God because we are called to be the best enabled by God.

God has called us to excellence. In God we have both the Calling and the Center to counter every unbalancing force in life. We need to give the Lord full sway in our lives everyday because for there is no full joy or no full peace until the Lord has his way in our lives.