

# Joyful Peace

## (Philippians 4:4-20)

### Introduction

In 1939, the world was in chaos. The German military machine, under the leadership of Adolph Hitler was expanding its reach throughout Europe. The Italians, partly motivated by Mussolini's jealousy of Hitler, was expanding its influence in the Mediterranean. In Asia, Japan was flexing its military muscle by expanding into Mongolia and Russian. Yet, America sought to stay neutral.

Up until, 1941, America played a support role for its allies, including England. But then on December 7, 1941, the United States declared war on Japan in response to the bombing of Pearl Harbor. On that same day, Germany declared war against the United States. America was at war on two fronts. Peace was a fast fading memory.

The war was brutal. Direct military involvement lasted almost 4 years. 291,557 American soldiers lost their lives in combat. An estimated 113,000 non-combatant deaths occurred. The war was costly in many ways, but especially in American lives.

Then on May 8, 1945, news of eminent German surrender broke. Just four months later, the Japanese signed surrender papers on September 2. America was no longer at war. PEACE!

Some of you feel like your life is an ongoing battle. You long for a little peace – a break in the chaos, a respite from the drama, a calm in the middle of your storms.

**Contextualize this sermon in the series.** The theme of Philippians is joy.

**Contextualize Philippians 4.** Philippians 4 adds another ingredient to the recipe for joy. That ingredient is peace. Peaceful living will cause joy to flourish in your heart.

**Choose joy (v. 4)!!** Again, Paul seems to put forth the challenge to CHOOSE JOY. The subsequent verses talk about peaceful living. The conclusion is that *peaceful living will cause joy to flourish in your heart.*

## **I. Peaceful Relationships (v. 5)**

- A) The challenge – *be gracious.***
- B) The basis – *God's grace.***
- C) The importance – *God is near***

## **II. Peaceful Hearts (v. 6-7)**

- A) Don't worry (v. 6a)**
- B) Do pray (v. 6b)**
- C) Experience peace (v. 7)**

## **III. Peaceful Thinking (v. 8-9)**

- A) Challenge to right thinking (v. 8b)**
- B) Content of right thinking (v. 8a)**
- C) Consequence of right thinking (v. 9)**

## **IV. Peaceful Living (v. 10-19)**

- A) Learn contentment (v. 10-12)**
- B) Lean on Christ (v. 13-14)**

**C) Look to Jesus (v. 15-20)**

## **Conclusion**