

Always Rejoicing

Philippians 4:4-5

Theme: Christians are to rejoice in the Lord always and let their gentleness be known to all because the Lord is near.

Christians are essentially different
from non-Christians!

Obedying the commands in 4:4-9 will
show the difference.

This is what our society needs to see!

Rejoice in the Lord Always (4:4)

Rejoice

- Opposite of complaining, arguing, fretting.
- An aspect of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22).
- A supernatural, internal, positive gladness in your spirit.

In the Lord

- The Lord is the object of rejoicing.
- Union with Christ is the ground off which Christians rejoice.

Always

- Despite circumstances. Always means always!

Christians are to rejoice in the Lord *all
the time.*

This is not a superficial cheerfulness,
closing eyes to circumstances.

Paul is exhorting this supernatural,
internal, positive gladness in your
spirit based on doctrinal knowledge.

It takes account of adverse circumstances while recognizing God's working in them to fulfil His purposes.

It means that in any and every situation your eyes are on the Lord.

It means believing Hebrews 13:5;
Romans 8:28; Ephesians 1:11; John
10:28-30; Proverbs 16:33; Philippians
1:6; 4:19.

Let Your Gentleness be Evident to all (4:5a)

Gentleness is a difficult word to translate.

It does **not** mean compromise, 'peace at any price', *cf.* 4:1.

It means: standing by things that are vital but being reasonable about things that are not; not being easily offended; making sacrifice for the sake of others; considering others by seeking explanation for their behaviour,

cf. 1 Corinthians 6:7.

A Christian's gentleness is to be made known to all.

Jesus is the supreme example of this
(Luke 23:34; 1 Peter 2:23).

We are to be gracious when opposed
(Romans 12:17-21).

The Lord is Near (4:5b)

An assurance that is meant to encourage obedience to commands.

It may be understood in two ways:

1. The Lord is near spatially.

God is omnipresent. God sees, knows their predicament.

2. The Lord is near temporally.

The Lord is coming soon
(2 Peter 3:3-4, 8).

We are to be *rejoicing in the Lord* always and letting our *gentleness* be known to all because the Lord is near.

We want to be found pleasing in His sight now and when He returns.

Conclusion

May God give us grace to obey 4:4-5.

As we do, others will see the reality of
the living God in us.

They will be faced with what they
cannot deny.