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GOSPEL STANDARD BAPTISTS

905

Prayer meeting address by Mr. J. Delves at "Ebenezer" Clapham, on
Saturday evening 1.9.56

Hymns: 277, 640

56/B

Reading: Philippians 4 and Matthew 6.25 to end.

This chapter concludes Paul's Epistle to the Philippians and contains much gracious instruction and timely exhortation given in such an affectionate and impressive way as might well move the feelings of the Lord's people exercised in divine things. There are in this chapter a number of points in relation to the practical consideration shown to Paul by these Philippians when he was in bonds. How their practical kindness did touch his heart! He declares that he was content to be in whatever state or place the Lord would have him to be, being fully persuaded that God would never forsake him, but would supply his every need.

I will just briefly mention one or two of these points. One is, "Rejoice in the Lord always." This marks a gracious character, a true believer, one enlightened in the truth and blessed with a saving knowledge and experience of the Gospel under some sweet manifestation of divine mercy in Christ. These people are said to be "The circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh." Here we have the same thought repeated: "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice." It is true we may often live far away from this atmosphere and this sweet experience in the soul; but although clouds hide His face and everything may press upon us; though we may often be despondent; yet the fact remains that in Christ there is that which calls for joy, the joy of faith under a view of His blessed Person and the perfection of that work which He completed at Calvary, especially when a hope of interest in that work is felt in our own hearts.

Besides this exhortation to rejoice in the Lord we also have one to take everything to Him by prayer and supplication. According

to the Apostle's word here it is evident that this is the best way to "be careful for nothing", because of the relief and confidence a believer may feel in the gracious committing of his affairs into the Lord's hands. It is very sweet when we can be rightly "careful for nothing". When the Lord's presence is enjoyed, when the comfort of His Word is felt, and the assurance of our interest in His Gospel, there can be a sweet coming up from the wilderness, leaning on our Beloved. Our times are in His hand. When the Apostle would have these believers to be "careful for nothing" he does not mean that he would have them careless and indifferent. This being "careful for nothing" consists, though often in the face of many difficulties, in a reliance of faith upon Christ and a taking of all our cares to Him.

Then there is a third point, which consists of drawing all our supplies from Him. The Apostle felt that God would not only supply all his need, but that He would supply their need. He had such an experience for himself of divine faithfulness that he was assured that God would supply their need and that it would be his God that would do this. "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory." This covers every spiritual need and every temporal need too; for if indeed He has bestowed the greater, will He not surely bestow the lesser?

May the Lord help us then to lean upon Him and to feel in our souls that sweet confidence of faith that He will surely fulfil His word and after all bring us through to the praise of His great name and the salvation of our souls. Amen