

CROWDING OUT EVIL

What a great plan! God teaches us that when we are baptized into Christ, (Galatians 3:27; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Romans 6:4) we are where salvation is (2 Timothy 2:10). At the same time, He fills us with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38; 5:32; 13:52) and fills us with Christ (Colossians 1:27). So, not only are we “in Christ” where all spiritual blessings are (Ephesians 1:3), but Christ is in us!

As God saves us and fills us with His Spirit, we become Christians (literally “Christ-followers”). But He also instructs us to fill ourselves with certain things. For example, we should fill ourselves with goodness and knowledge (Romans 15:14; Colossians 1:9).

We should also be filling our minds with good thoughts about good things. In Philippians 4:4-13 God shares with us the precious secret of peace that passes understanding. The requirement? Fill your thoughts with good things! In verses 4-6 we are taught to crowd out anxiety with rejoicing (v. 4), patience (v. 5) and prayer (v. 6). The result? Peace from God, Himself, will guard your hearts (the seat of emotions and integrity, see Genesis 20:5,6) and your minds (the seat of your logic and understanding) “in Christ Jesus (v. 7).

We continue to follow by filling our minds in this manner: “...whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things,” Philippians 4:8.

God fills us with His Spirit but He directs us to fill ourselves with good thoughts. The result? God’s presence with us (Philippians 4:9). Both must be in place for us to have the peace and joy He plans for us. His Spirit and our thoughts crowd out evil. Read Matthew 12:43-45 to learn what happens to a saved soul that left itself empty or “unoccupied” (NASB).

The peace of God will guard us... the God of peace will be with us! His plan crowds evil out of our lives. No wonder we sing, “A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord, He taketh my burden away.” What a great plan. What a great Lord!

Ray Wallace