

Philippians Chapter Four

v. 1- We see the example of Paul's deep affection for the Philippians in the way he addresses them: Brethren (familial in closeness), Beloved and Longed For (deep affection and his desire to be with them in person), My Joy and Crown (They are a source of his joy and honor—the crown of leaves was a symbol of victor and reward as in the crown that was given to the victors in the Grecian games.)

v.2-3 – There was some kind of disharmony between two women of the church, Euodias (greek, prosperous journey, sweet fragrance) and Syntyche (greek, pleasant acquaintance, affable, fortunate). Neither was living up to their name, for they were causing a disruption in the church. Paul encouraged them toward unity and harmony, to be of the same mind IN THE LORD. He acknowledged how valuable they had been to the struggle in the gospel, but now their differences were a negative to that struggle. He asked for the help of, possibly, an elder addressed as “true yokefellow” (this might have been his proper name – Syzygus) to mediate a peace between them and get them on the right path.

v.4 – REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS: AND AGAIN I SAY, REJOICE! This is the first time in this letter that Paul directs them to rejoice in the Lord. Rejoice in all he is, all he does, all he gives. Rejoice in his word, his birth, his miracles, his suffering, his resurrection, his gospel, his forgiveness, his Spirit, his people, his glory.....Rejoice in the Lord!

v.5 – Let your moderation (gentleness) be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand (the Lord is coming again, soon). Gentleness in this sense means reasonableness, not so concerned with unimportant matters that a person fights over, nonessentials. Our perspective is a spiritual perspective. We have different priorities. The things of this earth lose their weight in the light of eternal matters, so we don't struggle and strive over things as others do. We let our moderation known, our gentleness.

v.6 – BE CAREFUL (full of care; anxious) FOR NOTHING, Greek word for anxious means “a mind divided” - between legitimate thoughts and destructive thoughts. Anxiety will have you travel down a road of “what if” that well may never happen, but causes you to worry, unproductively. That worry can even be destructive. – BUT IN EVERY THING BY PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION (prayer is our approach to God, and supplication is the direct request), WITH THANKSGIVING (always the attitude we should have) LET YOUR REQUESTS BE MADE KNOWN UNTO GOD.

v.7 – AND THE PEACE OF GOD, WHICH PASSETH ALL UNDERSTANDING , SHALL KEEP (guard) YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS (guard to keep them intact, to keep you thinking in the right way, thinking with the mind of Christ, the mind of a Son of God, mind of one who knows what God can and will do) THROUGH CHRIST JESUS.

v.8, 9 – Finally get those kept minds meditating on right things. Here a six things to meditate on: True, Honest (noble), Just (right), Pure (holy), Lovely (friendly, promotes peace) Good Report (proper), always thinking of these virtuous things (worthwhile) and praiseworthy things. And the things you have received and learned and observed in my example (Paul), do them, and the God of peace will be with you.