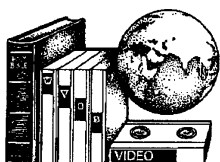


World Video Bible School®

Established 1986



P H I L I P P I A N S

This set of notes is designed to be used by non-credit students of World Video Bible School® and correspondent students enrolled in the Video Bible Institute (VBI). VBI students should pay particular attention to the syllabus. Students not taking the course for credit may bypass the syllabus and use the notes as they see fit for their spiritual enrichment.



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PHILIPPIANS

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PHILIPPIANS

∞ Syllabus ∞

I. GENERAL INFORMATION.

- A. Instructor: Jim Dearman.
- B. This course consists of 9 lessons on 3 DVDs.
- C. Each class is approximately 38 minutes long.

II. DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE.

- A. This is an in-depth study of Philippians emphasizing “the mind of Christ,” which is the key to contentment and continual rejoicing “in the Lord.”
- B. Students will be strengthened by studying and applying principles Paul teaches in this epistle.
- C. Students will gain greater understanding of what makes a church pleasing to the Lord.
- D. Students will be better able to teach the truths in this book to others.

III. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS.

- A. Required.
 - 1. Bible (ASV, KJV or NKJV).
 - 2. Nine video lessons.
 - 3. Course notes.
- B. Optional.
 - 1. For sermons from Philippians, Tom Holland’s book, *Reason To Rejoice*, is recommended (Holland Publications, 1975).
 - 2. Any good (conservative) commentary on Philippians.

IV. REQUIREMENTS.

- A. Read the entire book of Philippians at least five times.
- B. View all 9 video lessons in their entirety.
- C. Read the class notes in their entirety.
- D. Complete all memory work (explained below).
- E. Submit a term paper (explained below).
- F. Take one written test.
- G. Have a combined grade average of at least 70.

V. MEMORY WORK.

- A. Memory verses must be written (or typed) from memory, then mailed to VBI for grading. Verses must come from the ASV, KJV or NKJV, according to what you indicated on your VBI enrollment application.
- B. All verses must be written out or typed at one sitting. You may study more and start over if you make a mistake, but you must still start again from the beginning and write all the verses at one sitting.
- C. For this course, the following verses must be memorized:
 - 1:9-11
 - 2:5-8
 - 3:13-14
 - 4:6-8
 - 4:13
- D. Memory work is due when you mail VBI your written test.
- E. Hint: A good method of memorizing is to write the verses on flash cards that can be easily reviewed throughout the course.

VI. TESTS.

- A. There is one written test on Philippians.
- B. When you near the end of the book, contact us and request the test.

- C. When you receive the test, you have permission to look at it and study it.
- D. However, when you take the test, you must do so completely from memory, with no help from notes, Bible, textbook, etc.

VII. TERM PAPER.

- A. Write an overview of Philippians, giving the highlights of each chapter and drawing out lessons we should learn.
- B. The paper should be a minimum of four pages, typed and double spaced. If handwritten, the paper should be a minimum of six pages, single spaced.
- C. The paper is due when you mail VBI your test and memory work.

VIII. GRADING.

- A. Memory work, term paper and test will be graded separately.
- B. Final grade is based on an average of all assigned work, with the test counting twice.
- C. You may request that a grade be explained or reconsidered, but in any case VBI will have the final say.

IX. CREDIT.

- A. Credit will be issued, including a certificate, only after all work has been successfully completed, tapes have been returned (if rented) and all fees for this particular course have been paid in full.
- B. May God richly bless your study of His inspired word!

INTRODUCTION

The city of Philippi was one of the major cities of Macedonia (Acts 16:12). It was located in Northern Greece near the seacoast, some 8 or 10 miles from the port of Neapolis. The location of the city was on the road from Europe to Asia and this made it a strategic location for preaching the gospel. Paul generally selected such sites for the beginning of his work.

Philip of Macedon, father of Alexander the Great, who assumed the throne in 360 B.C., conquered the town of Krenides, introduced colonists into the city and renamed it Philippi after himself. The province of Macedonia was later captured by the Romans and divided into four districts. The battle of Philippi in 42 B.C. was one of the decisive battles in history. Here at Philippi, Mark Antony and Octavian defeated Brutus and Cassius and decided the future history of the Roman empire.

After Philippi became a Roman colony Latin became the language of the people and Roman coins, laws and customs prevailed (Acts 16:20,21). The city flourished under Roman rule. Only a few Jews lived in Philippi and there was no synagogue there (Acts 16:13). There was a school of medicine in the city, which is interesting, since Luke the physician seems to have lived there. Only the ruins of the city remain today.

Paul first came to Philippi around 52 A.D. during his second missionary journey. Acts 16 relates the account of this visit. It was the first city in Europe where Paul preached. During his third missionary journey, Paul visited Philippi again, as well as other churches of Macedonia. This took place about five years after the first visit. There seems to have been a closer bond of love and affection between Paul and this church than with any other congregation. This church supported Paul financially on several occasions (Phil 4:15,16; 2 Cor 11:9). The Macedonian churches had a reputation for liberality (2 Cor 8:1-5). Although poorer than many others, they were more generous in their giving.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PHILIPPIANS

1. Salutation..... 1:1,2
2. Thanks and prayer for the Philippians..... 1:3-11
3. Progress of the gospel in Rome..... 1:12-18
4. Paul's hope..... 1:19-26
5. Exhortation to a worthy manner of life..... 1:17-2:18

6.	Example of Christ stressed.	2:5-11
7.	News about Timothy and Epaphroditus.	2:19-30
8.	False teachers versus Paul's example.. . . .	3:1-4:1
9.	Exhortation to individuals to be in harmony.	4:2,3
10.	Exhortation to joy.	4:4-7
11.	Exhortation to right thinking.	4:8,9
12.	Thanks for their gift.	4:10-20
13.	Salutations.	4:21-23

THERE IS AN ELEMENT OF UNITY IN THE BOOK

1. Philippians 1 stresses a mind of thankfulness.
 - a. For fellowship (1:3-11).
 - b. For victories (1:12-18).
 - c. For the hope of salvation (1:19-26).
2. Philippians 2 deals with the mind (attitude) of Christ.
 - a. Christians should possess the mind of Christ.
 - b. Timothy was commended because of his attitude of mind (2:19-21).
3. Philippians 3 stresses a mind of right values.
 - a. Paul counted all things loss for Christ (3:8).
 - b. Exhortation to be like-minded (3:15).
4. Philippians 4 stresses a mind of many virtues.
 - a. Unity - be of the same mind (4:2).
 - b. Joy - rejoice in the Lord (4:4).

- c. Clean thinking - think on these things (4:8).
- d. Contentment - "I am therein content" (4:11).
- e. Thankfulness (4:18).

Someone has called Philippians "Paul's love letter." More affection is shown for the brethren there, more commendation. They stood by Paul and supported him in times of need, etc. Notice 4:15,16; 2 Cor 11:9. Paul did not try to be a burden to the Macedonians, but was grateful for what he received at their hands. See also 2 Cor 8:1-5. They exceeded Paul's expectations. The secret of this kind of giving - 2 Cor 8:5 - they first gave themselves to the Lord.

Attitudes are very important. Because of their love for the Lord, they were willing to sacrifice. Cf. Moses.

No wonder Paul loved and appreciated this church.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION.

1. Philippians Chapter 1 expresses an attitude of thankfulness.
2. Paul is thankful for his fellowship with the Philippian brethren, his victories in Christ and for the hope of salvation.

DISCUSSION.

- I. Salutation and address (1:1,2).
 - A. Paul and Timothy are called servants of Christ.
 - B. The Philippians are addressed as “saints.”
 1. “Saint” = one who is set apart for a holy use.
 2. All Christians are saints.
 - C. The bishops and the deacons are mentioned.
 1. The bishops were the elders, the overseers (bishops) or the pastors of the congregation.
 2. All the above names describe the same office.
 3. The deacons are the special servants of the church, working under the elders’ oversight.
 4. The qualifications for elders are given in Titus 1 and 1 Timothy 3.
 5. Qualifications for deacons are given in 1 Timothy 3.
 - D. In verse 2, Paul gives his customary salutation, with a wish for grace and peace to attend these good brethren.
- II. Paul’s thankfulness is expressed and his situation in Rome is described (1:3-30).
 - A. Paul’s prayer and thanksgiving for the Philippian church is expressed in verses 3-11.

1. Verses 3 and 4 really need to be imitated, not explained.
2. Paul was grateful for the Philippians' fellowship (verse 5).
 - a. Fellowship is the share one has in anything; participation, association or communion.
 - b. The Greek word "koinonia" is translated as:
 - 1) "Communication" - Phil 6.
 - 2) "Communion" - 1 Cor 10:16.
 - 3) "Contribution" - Rom 15:26.
 - 4) "Distribution" - 2 Cor 9:13.
 - 5) "Fellowship" - Phil 1:5.
3. Paul expresses his desire that the Philippians finish their course and he gives the qualities necessary to doing so (verses 6-11).
 - a. In verse 6, the "day of Jesus Christ" is the day of judgment.
 - b. Paul expresses confidence that God will complete the work he has begun with them.
 - c. In verses 7 and 8, Paul states that it is proper for him to pray for them as one who loves them and is a joint partaker of God's grace.
 - d. The qualities the Christian needs to finish the course:
 - 1) Love that abounds - verse 9.
 - 2) Knowledge - verse 9.
 - 3) Judgment - verse 9.
 - e. The results of having these qualities are:
 - 1) Ability to approve the things that are excellent - verse 10.
 - 2) Ability to be sincere and without offense - verse 10.

- 3) to be filled with the fruits of righteousness - verse 11.
- f. "Sincere" in verse 10 means, literally, "that which viewed in the sunshine is found clear and pure."
- g. Notice that the fruits in verse 11 are to be seen as a result of being a Christian. They are for the glory and praise of God, not man.

B. Paul's attitude toward his condition in Rome is seen in 1:12-30.

- 1. In verses 12-18 Paul writes of the progress of the gospel in Rome.
 - a. Paul did not want his brethren to be anxious about him (verse 12).
 - b. He assured them that in the providence of God he was able to preach to his captors as a result of being in prison (verse 13).
 - c. Compare Philippians 4:22, where Paul writes of those of Caesar's household who had been converted.
 - d. Verse 14 - Paul's example of courage had helped his brethren to have more boldness in their preaching of the gospel.
 - 1) This shows the power of influence.
 - 2) Every Christian is to be a light. Cf. Mt 5:16.
 - e. Verses 15-18 deal with the different motives of preachers.
 - 1) Some were trying to create problems for Paul by their insincere preaching.
 - 2) However, others had the proper motive of love in their preaching.
 - 3) In verse 18 Paul rejoiced that Christ was preached even if some did not have the right spirit.
 - a) Paul was not saying that those with the wrong attitude were approved by God.

- b) He was happy for the knowledge of Christ to be spread.
 - c) People will be lost eternally because of improper attitudes. Compare Jn 4:24.
- 2. Paul's personal hope is expressed in 1:19-26.
 - a. Paul had great faith in the prayers of his brethren.
 - b. He believed that through prayer and the Spirit of Christ, he could overcome any trial. Cf. Phil 4:13.
 - c. Today we overcome through the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. Cf. Eph 6:17.
 - d. Paul expresses a dilemma in these verses.
 - 1) It would be better to depart and be with Christ personally.
 - 2) But it is more needful for his brethren that he remain alive to care for the churches.
 - e. Paul knew the brethren would rejoice to see him again.
 - f. Therefore, he had confidence in God's providence to deliver him from prison.
 - g. Think of the unselfishness of this man in considering others while he was himself a prisoner in Rome!
- 3. In verses 27-30 Paul encourages the Philippians to:
 - a. Stand together - verse 27.
 - b. Strive together - verse 27.
 - c. Suffer together - verses 28-30.
 - d. They were to be consistent in their "conversation" (manner of life).
 - e. Division is always condemned in the scriptures. Compare 1 Cor 1:10-13.

- f. Suffering was to be seen as a privilege, not a burden.

CONCLUSION.

- 1. Chapter 1 of Philippians emphasizes Christ-centered living.
- 2. “Christ” is used 18 times in this chapter.

CHAPTER TWO

INTRODUCTION.

1. Philippians 1 emphasized an attitude of thankfulness.
2. Philippians 2 stresses an attitude of humility and unity.
3. Christ is the perfect example of the attitude which all Christians should imitate (Phil 2:5).

DISCUSSION.

- I. The Lord's example to the church is set forth by Paul (2:1-18).
 - A. Christ's example is seen, from humiliation to exaltation (2:1-11).
 1. Verses 1-4 contain Paul's plea that the Philippians be united based upon the following motives:
 - a. They are in Christ,
 - b. They should be motivated by love,
 - c. Their fellowship is directed by the Holy Spirit and
 - d. Christianity requires mercy and compassion.
 2. We also see a list of attitudes and actions which result in unity.
 - a. We have the same mind.
 - b. We have the same love for one another.
 - c. We are of one accord.
 - d. Being of one mind, we are united in thought.
 - e. We avoid factions and vainglory.
 - f. We have humility (Cf. Rom 12:3).
 - g. We have unselfish concern for others (Cf. Rom 12:9, 10).

3. The final and greatest appeal for unity is seen in verses 5-11, the example of Jesus.
 - a. The mind of Christ is the attitude of Christ.
 - b. How did that attitude show itself in Christ?
 - 1) He gave up equality with God, taking upon himself the form and limitations of a servant (vv.6,7).
 - 2) He humbled himself, taking the likeness of man and dying for us voluntarily (v. 8). Cf. Jn 10:17, 18.
 - c. As a result of His sacrifice, God exalted Him, restoring the glory He had before He came to earth (vv. 9-11). Cf. Jn 17:5.
 - 1) The name given Him was probably "Lord," indicating His authority (v. 9).
 - 2) Eventually all shall confess Him (v.10).
 - a) Angelic hosts worship Him.
 - b) Those now on earth will confess Him.
 - c) The devils believe and tremble (Jas 2:19).
 - 3) These confessions of Christ bring glory and honor to God the Father (v. 11).

B. God strengthens believers to walk in obedience to Christ to a glorious end (2:12-18).

1. The salvation of man is a cooperative effort involving both God and man (vv. 12,13).
 - a. Man has his work to do, a work of faith (v. 12).
 - 1) Eph 2:10.
 - 2) Titus 2:14.
 - b. God works with the believer through His Word, which produces a will to work as well as the work itself.

- 1) God's grace came teaching.
 - 2) We must respond to His grace by working willingly.
Cf. Titus 2:11-14.
2. God is concerned with "how" we do things, as well as with "what" we do (v. 14).
- a. Murmuring is a serious sin.
 - 1) Num 11:1-3.
 - 2) 1 Cor 10:10.
 - b. Disputing is the idea of an open argument which grows out of the murmuring.
 - c. Both are clearly condemned in scripture.
 - d. Even if one obeys, and then murmurs or complains, he is not pleasing to God.
 - e. Does a child who obeys, but murmurs as he does, really please his parents?
3. The result of obeying with the right attitude is seen in verse 15.
- a. "Blameless" means one who is not subject to just criticism or not deserving of being censured. Cf. Lk 1:6.
 - b. "Harmless" is the idea of purity or freedom from evil.
 - c. Our generation is one which is "crooked and perverse."
 - 1) We call evil good and good evil.
 - 2) Cf. Isa 5:20.
 - d. In the midst of all this, the Christian is to shine as a light. Cf. Mt 5:16.
4. Verse 16 shows that we are to take the Word of God to others.
- a. Paul understood that his converts were to convert others by being lights in a world darkened by sin.

- b. 1 Cor 3:11-15 deals with the reward of the one whose converts have endured.
- 5. Verses 17 and 18 deal with joy in suffering for Christ.
 - a. The phrase, "if I am offered" literally means, "if I am poured out as a drink offering."
 - b. The drink offering was a part of the Old Testament system of sacrifices. Cf. Num 15:4,5.
 - c. Paul compares the service and sacrifice of the Philippians to a burnt offering and he likens his own life to a drink offering poured out on their sacrifice as a tribute to their faithfulness.
 - d. Paul's life might soon be lost in Rome, but he asks the Philippians to rejoice with him in the privilege of suffering for Christ.

II. Paul mentions his fellow-workers in the gospel (2:19-30).

A. Timothy is mentioned in verses 19-24.

- 1. Paul trusted Timothy completely and often sent him to churches that needed help when Paul could not go.
 - a. 1 Thess 3:1,2.
 - b. Acts 19:22.
- 2. Paul writes in verse 21 of others who seek personal gain, but Timothy is different.
 - a. The Philippians had already seen Timothy's faithfulness.
 - 1) Faithfulness is shown by our actions.
 - 2) In 2 Thessalonians 1:3 Paul wrote of their "work of faith."
 - 3) James declared that faith without works is dead (Jas 2:24).
 - b. Presently Paul plans to send Timothy to them, but he trusts God to deliver him that he himself might come to them.

3. In verses 25-30 Paul discusses another of his faithful co-laborers, Epaphroditus.
- a. Here was a man who nearly worked himself to death in the cause of Christ.
 - b. Had he died, his epitaph would have read:
 - 1) Brother,
 - 2) Companion in labor,
 - 3) Fellow-soldier,
 - 4) Messenger and
 - 5) Minister.
 - c. What greater tribute could be given to any man than to refer to him as Paul did to Epaphroditus?
 - d. This man had been sent to Paul as a messenger, as one to assist Paul in his work.
 - e. Now he was having to return to Philippi because of sickness.
 - f. Epaphroditus was concerned because his brethren at Philippi had learned of his illness.
 - g. He did not want them to worry about him.
 - h. What a marvelous attitude this is in this man and how opposite it is to that of many today in the church who want attention from others.
 - i. This passage shows that Christians are not exempt from illness and death.
 - 1) Paul did not miraculously cure Epaphroditus.
 - 2) Miracles were to confirm the Word.
 - 3) Paul left Trophimus sick at Miletus (2 Tim 4:20).

- 4) Paul himself had a thorn in the flesh (2 Corinthians 12:7-9).
- j. Paul was thankful for the mercy of God in healing Epaphroditus (verse 27).
 - 1) Had Epaphroditus died, Paul would have suffered greater sorrow.
 - 2) Paul could always see his blessings, even in adversity.
- k. Paul's unselfish spirit is seen in his statement of verse 28.
 - 1) Paul would rejoice over the Philippians' reunion with their messenger.
 - 2) He was more concerned for their happiness than for his own.
- l. In the final two verses of the chapter Paul reminds the Philippians that Epaphroditus had risked his life to do the work they had sent him to do.
- m. This man is mentioned only here and in Phil 4:18; yet he is a great servant worthy of our imitation.
- n. Epaphroditus is a great hero of the faith.

CONCLUSION.

- 1. This great chapter teaches us the importance of humility and self-denial in achieving unity.
- 2. The three men included here, Paul, Timothy and Epaphroditus, are great examples of such humility.
- 3. "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 5:3).

CHAPTER THREE

INTRODUCTION.

1. Chapter 3 of Philippians draws a contrast between false teachers and the apostle Paul.
2. The chapter also shows us the sacrifice Paul made for the gospel.
3. Paul calls upon the Philippians to follow his example as he follows Christ. Cf. 1 Cor 11:1.

DISCUSSION.

- I. Paul's spirit versus that of the false teachers is contrasted in 3:1-16.
 - A. The obligation to rejoice in the Lord is stated in verse 1, as it is in other places in the epistle.
 1. Compare 2:18 and 4:4.
 2. The words here signify continuous action - "keep on rejoicing."
 3. In this verse Paul also reminds his readers that repetition is good.
 4. Such repetition helps Christians to become strong in the faith. Cf. 2 Pet 1:12.
 - B. Verse 2 begins a warning concerning Judaizing teachers who were trying to bind the Law of Moses upon Christians.
 1. They are called "dogs" which, to the Jews, was an unclean animal (Mt 7:5).
 2. The Gentiles were called dogs (Mt 15:27).
 3. These false teachers were regarded in this way because they were changing the gospel and they were binding circumcision on Christians.
 4. Paul calls this "the mutilation" which means "a useless cutting of the flesh."

5. Circumcision was no longer important (Gal 6:15).
- C. Christians are the real circumcision, the true people of God (verse 3).
1. Rom 2:25-29.
 2. Gal 6:15,16.
 3. There are three signs of the true circumcision:
 - a. Worshiping by the Spirit of God,
 - b. Rejoicing in Christ Jesus and
 - c. Having no confidence in the flesh.
 4. Worshiping by the Spirit is worship by the New Testament law given by the Spirit.
 5. It would be foolish to try to serve God under the Law of Moses today. Compare Galatians 3:1-3.
- D. Paul lists the things in which he might have had confidence from a fleshly view (verses 4-6).
1. Paul had more grounds for confidence in the Jewish system than these Judaizing teachers (verse 4).
 2. Notice the list of Paul's distinctions as a Hebrew.
 - a. He was circumcised the eighth day. Cf. Lk 1:59.
 - b. He was of the stock of Israel. Cf. 2 Cor 11:22.
 - c. He was of the tribe of Benjamin. Cf. Rom 11:1.
 - d. Paul was a Pharisee. Cf. Acts 23:6; 26:5.
 - e. Paul was zealous in his persecution, but his zeal was based upon ignorance of and prejudice toward Christianity. Cf. Rom 10:1-3.
 - f. Paul was blameless in his observance of the Old Law.

3. These six points show that Paul could have claimed, if he had desired to do so, more honors from the Jewish point of view than any of these Jewish teachers.
- E. When did Paul count as loss all these honors and distinctions (verse 7)?
1. He counted them as loss when he became a Christian.
 2. Notice what he counted as loss:
 - a. Fleshly honors and ancestry were lost,
 - b. Educational advantages were lost,
 - c. His position among the Pharisees was lost and
 - d. His social respectability was lost.
 - 1) He had the righteousness of the law.
 - 2) He was respected by his people as an observer of that law.
- F. In verses 8-11 Paul states that he continues to count these things as loss for the gain in Christ.
1. Paul “counted” and still “counts” as loss all the things that would hinder his service to Christ.
 2. What did he gain in Christ?
 - a. He gained the knowledge which gives eternal life (verse 8). Cf. Jn 17:3.
 - b. He gained justification by faith (verse 9). Cf. Rom 5:1.
 - c. He gained partnership in Christ’s suffering (verse 10).
 - d. He became an apostle of Christ. Cf. Acts 9.
 - e. He gained the hope of being raised to eternal life (verse 11).
- G. Paul’s attitude about the past and the future is expressed in verses 12-14.
1. Paul did not claim sinless perfection.

2. His goals for himself were to forget things from the past that would hinder him and to move forward toward the prize of eternal life.
 3. We have to be able to put aside things that would hinder us from running the race and winning the prize of heaven. Cf. Heb 12:1,2.
 4. Paul's motivation for moving toward his goal was the love of Christ displayed through the cross.
 - a. Paul was constrained by the cross - 2 Cor 5:14,15.
 - b. Paul was compelled by the cross - Phil 3:13,14.
 - c. Paul was controlled by the cross - Phil 4:11ff.
- H. Verses 15 and 16 appear to be a concluding exhortation based on the preceding verses.
1. Paul urges those who consider themselves to be mature Christians to realize they must press on to the goal.
 2. There is a rule to be followed - the New Testament. Cf. Gal 6:16.
- I. Verse 17 corresponds closely with verse 9 of chapter 4.
1. The Philippians are urged to be imitators of Paul. Cf. 1 Cor 11:1.
 2. Paul set a pattern which he could ask them to follow.
 3. How many preachers could consistently do the same?
- J. In verses 18 and 19 Paul writes of those who are not worthy examples to follow.
1. Paul did not hesitate to warn of false teachers.
 2. However, notice his attitude.
 - a. "Even weeping" is an expression which reveals Paul's compassion for souls.
 - b. In Acts 20:31 the same spirit is seen in Paul's expression "with tears."

- c. Paul warned and wept, showing that we must not compromise truth, but we must have compassion upon the sinner.
 - d. People must see how much we detest sin, but this does not allow us to display a bad spirit toward the sinner.
- K. In the final verses of the chapter, Paul contrasts the Christian's heavenly aspirations with the worldly man's earthly attachment (verses 20,21).
 - 1. The Christian's citizenship is in heaven and he must not mind earthly things. Cf. Col 3:1-3.
 - 2. The Christian looks for the coming of Christ and the resurrection and transformation of his body prior to entering heaven. Cf. 1 Cor 15:51-53.

CONCLUSION.

- 1. Paul has taught in this chapter the need to sacrifice everything to gain Christ.
- 2. Nothing this world offers can compare to the joys of being in the Lord, where we may continue to rejoice as we press toward the goal of heaven.

CHAPTER FOUR

INTRODUCTION.

1. This final chapter of Philippians is filled with exhortations.
2. The brethren are exhorted to stand fast in the Lord, to be in harmony, to rejoice and to think properly.
3. Paul expresses his thanksgiving for their gifts to him, then closes with salutations from the saints and his customary benediction.

DISCUSSION.

- I. Various exhortations are given by Paul to the church and to individuals in verses 1-9.
 - A. The brethren are exhorted to “stand fast in the Lord” (verse 1).
 1. “Therefore” points us back to the previous chapter, where Paul discussed the importance of walking by the same rule.
 2. Phil 3:20,21 need to be considered with 4:1.
 - a. We should stand fast in the Lord because our citizenship as Christians is in heaven.
 - b. We should stand fast in the Lord because we know that the Lord is coming again and that our vile bodies will be changed to spend eternity with Him.
 3. Paul refers to the Philippians as his “joy and crown.”
 - a. This refers to the time when he would see them approved of God and Christ in the judgment.
 - b. There will be recognition in heaven. Cf. 1 Thess 2:19,20.
 - B. Individuals are exhorted to be in harmony (4:2,3).
 1. These verses contain an appeal to two sisters to end their contentions and to be of one mind in the Lord.

2. Apparently Euodia and Syntyche were having some kind of difference between them.
 3. Paul appeals to them to be of the “same mind in the Lord.”
 - a. Phil 2:2.
 - b. Rom 12:16.
 - c. Rom 15:5.
 - d. 2 Cor 13:11.
 4. Paul calls upon his “true companion,” possibly the local preacher in Philippi, to help these sisters work out their differences.
 5. He speaks of other fellow workers whose names are in the “Book of Life.”
 - a. Rev 20:12.
 - b. We can know our names are written there. Cf. 1 Jn 2:3.
- C. Verses 4-7 contain an exhortation to joyfulness and gentleness.
1. “In the Lord” we may always rejoice(verse 4).
 - a. Paul has repeated this exhortation throughout the epistle.
 - b. Phil 2:18; 3:1.
 2. “Gentleness” is forbearance in our relationship with others; kindness is implied in the word.
 3. In verse 5, the phrase “the Lord is at hand” means the Lord is near at hand, always aware of our every action and attitude.
 - a. This is a sobering thought, but a happy one for the Christian who is doing God’s will.
 - b. Heb 4:13.
 - c. In Phil 4:5, Paul was not teaching that Christ was about to return, although some in New Testament times had that misconception. Cf. 1 Thess 4:13-18.

4. A warning against anxiety is given in verse 6, along with an exhortation to prayer with thanksgiving.
 - a. This reminds one of the Sermon on the Mount - Mt 6:25.
 - b. Prayer is the answer to anxiety.
 5. Prayer brings peace from God that guards our hearts and minds through Jesus Christ (verse 7).
 - a. Eph 6:18.
 - b. Jas 5:16.
- D. In verses 8 and 9 Paul urges the Philippians to think and then act righteously.
1. It is very important that the Christian center his mind on these things mentioned in verse 8:
 - a. Whatever things are true.
 - b. Whatever things are noble.
 - c. Whatever things are just.
 - d. Whatever things are pure.
 - e. Whatever things are lovely.
 - f. Whatever things are of good report.
 2. What is involved in these words?
 - a. Truth is first and is self-explanatory.
 - b. Things noble involve integrity and honor.
 - c. Justice is without degree or favor.
 - d. Purity involves chastity and self-control.
 - e. Lovely suggests not being unkind or fault finding.

- f. Things of good report indicate a concern for a good name and recognizing the importance of such.
- 3. In verse 9 Paul calls upon the brethren to put into action the things they had:
 - a. Learned,
 - b. Received,
 - c. Heard and
 - d. Seen.

II. Paul expresses thanksgiving for their gifts of love (4:10-20).

- A. The Philippians had helped Paul before, but for a time they had not had an opportunity, it seems, to send help (verse 10).
- B. Paul states he is not asking for help based upon need, because he has learned to live with any circumstance (verses 11-13).
 - 1. Paul had learned:
 - a. How to be without things,
 - b. How to have plenty without being proud,
 - c. How to be full, well-fed and
 - d. How to accept hunger.
 - 2. Christian contentment is a lesson we must learn.
 - 3. What is the key to contentment?
 - a. Christ is the answer.
 - b. He gives us all we need to do all things (verse 13).
- C. Verses 14-16 contain Paul's commendation to the Philippians for their generosity.
 - 1. They had sent more than once to help Paul.

2. 2 Cor 8:1-4 shows the liberality of these brethren.
 3. Generosity is a blessing both to the giver and to the receiver.
- D. Paul wanted them to give, not for himself, but for their strength and edification (verse 17).
1. They would benefit by helping others.
 2. It would be a contribution to their heavenly account. Cf. Mt 6:19,20.
- E. In verse 18 Paul compares their gift to an acceptable sacrifice to God.
1. Heb 13:16.
 2. 2 Cor 9:12.
- F. Paul assures them that God will supply their needs and he follows that statement with an outburst of praise to the Father (verses 19,20).
1. We must not be anxious about material things.
 2. Mt 6:33.
- G. Paul's closing salutations and benediction are given in verses 21-23.
1. He sends greetings from the brethren in Rome (verse 21).
 2. Among the brethren were some who had been converted among Caesar's household (verse 22).
 3. He closes by expressing his desire that the grace, or unmerited favor, of God should rest upon the Philippians (verse 23).

CONCLUSION.

1. Thus ends Paul's "love letter" to the Philippians.
2. From it we may learn to have "the mind of Christ," the key to successful Christian living and to the eternal inheritance.