

Philippians 4

Rejoice

Remember...We are citizens of Heaven!

1 **Therefore**, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.

- **Therefore**...since we have such a great eternal hope
 1. My beloved
 2. My Long-lost brethren
 3. My Joy
 4. My crown
- **Paul's encouragement and warning:**

Stand Fast in the Lord

- Great Joy to see converts endure and grow

It is a great joy to a minister... to have converts; but that joy is greatly diminished when they do not stand fast: then, indeed, every supposed joy becomes a sorrow, and instead of the roses which yield a sweet perfume to the Lord's servant, thorns begin to prick and wound his heart. [Spurgeon]

Stand Fast in the Lord

- **Jude 1:1** Preserved in the Lord

Jude 1:24 [Jesus] is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy

We are Eternally Secure as we abide in Christ [Chuck Smith]

- Endurance does not save us but is a sign we are saved [Fear and Trembling]

Stand fast in the Lord...**my beloved** [x2]

I. Gentle, Thankful and at Peace

2 I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

- **Two women who just did not get along**
 1. Avoided each other
 2. Always thinking about the other
 3. Never gave the benefit of doubt to the other
 4. Never thought the best of each other
 5. Things said and misunderstood

- 6. Bitter glasses
- 7. Side were being drawn and focus off Jesus and on situation

I beg you...be of the same mind

...not Euodia's mind. Not Syntyche's mind but...**Have the mind of Christ**

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus

- Did not hold onto His rights
- Did not hold on to His position
- Humbled Himself to die for you two ladies

Kill the Flesh. Put down self.

Lift up Jesus and glorify God by forgiving completely and moving on

- **Those that know the situation...** Don't fuel the fire but help them...
 1. Don't gossip
 2. Don't choose sides
 3. Help them reconcile with each other and God

3 And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, those names are in the Book of Life.

- True companion?
 1. Help them find the Mind of Christ: **Tell them to die to self!**
 2. We all ministered together and now it's a mess [flesh]
- We are all written in the Book of Life
- **We are all citizens of Heaven:** Are you ready to spend eternity with each other?

Can't we all just get along? With the mind of Christ...Yes

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

- Instead of contention with one another...Rejoice in the Lord **x2** here
- Philippians 1:4, 1:18, 1:25, 2:2, 2:16, 2:17, 2:18, 2:28, 3:1, 3:3, 4:1, and 4:4.

"I am glad that we do not know what the quarrel was about; I am usually thankful for ignorance on such subjects; - but as a cure for disagreements, the apostle says, 'Rejoice in the Lord always.' People who are very happy, especially those who are very happy in the Lord, are not apt either to give offense or to take offense. Their minds are so sweetly occupied with higher things, that they are not easily distracted by the little troubles which naturally arise among such imperfect creatures as we are. Joy in the Lord is the cure for all discord." [Spurgeon]

Rejoice in the Lord *always*

Whatever our situation we have the ability to rejoice in the Lord

5 Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.

When people leave your presence let it be gentleness they remember Comfortable in your own skin. Know who you are in the Lord and where you're going

- Lord is "at hand"; near with regard to time
- Root meaning wave about to crash; it's going to happen...no stopping it

The Lord is at Hand...be found loving. Be found joyful. Be found with a gentle Spirit

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God...

The Lord is at hand...Be anxious for NOTHING

- **Anxious for nothing:** Command not request
- Instead of getting anxious [Nervous Ned's?]
 1. Pray about everything
 2. As you ask for what you don't have...give thanks for what you do have

Secret/Key/Antidote/Cure/Remedy/Solution/Answer/Remedy stress? Thanksgiving

- **Result...**

7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- **Peace of God [feeling] as we give thanks:**
 1. Surpasses ALL understanding: Supernatural. NY minute. Out of the blue
 2. Guards our heart: Emotions under control
 3. Guards our mind: Thoughts not scattered but sharp

All...Through Christ Jesus

- Be Gentle
- Be Thankful: Cant whine and give thanks at same time
- Be at Peace

[Verses 5-7] ...describes the heart of a person who will let the Lord fight his battles. They know that vengeance is [His] It describes a person who is really free to let go of His anxieties and all the things that cause him stress, because he knows that the Lord will take up his cause. [Guzic]

"What is God's peace? The unruffled serenity of the infinitely-happy God, the eternal composure of the absolutely well-contented God." [Spurgeon]

SUMMARY: Be Gentle/Be Thankful/Be at Peace

- **More very practical instruction...**

II. Meditate on These Things

8 Finally, brethren...

- Finally brethren...really.

8b...whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

- **Meditated on this list:**
 1. Things that are true
 2. Things that are noble
 3. Things that are that are just
 4. Things that are pure
 5. Things that are lovely
 6. Things of "good report"
 7. Things that are virtuous
 8. Things that are praiseworthy

What are we "feeding or minds? Garbage in Garbage out. Treasure in Treasure out

- Meditate on these things: Part of transformation of our minds [Romans 12:2]

Remember that souls grow more by meditation than by anything else. [Spurgeon]

9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

- I am at peace because I took the advice I just gave you
- If you think on these things you also will know the peace of God

III. Contentment in Jesus

10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity.

Love believes the best about people

1 Corinthians 13:7 [Love]...bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

- I rejoiced when Epaphroditis came with your gift
- I know you wanted to come sooner but could not

11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound.

Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

- Not complaining but content

I know how to be content because I have learned how to be content

- I know how to be rich and full because I learned how
- I know how to be poor and hungry because I learned how

To many men it is given to have all that heart can wish, and yet not to have what their heart does wish. They have everything except contentment...Remember that a man's contentment is in his mind, not in the extent of his possessions. Alexander the Great, with all the world at his feet, cried for [just one more] world to conquer. [Spurgeon]

Answer to being content in ALL situations? Learn how to find our strength in Jesus

13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Not "Lord give me strength" but "Lord BE my strength"

2 Timothy 4:16 At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. 17 But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached **fully through me**

**Not my strength made stronger but God's strength in me working through me
...to accomplish His will**

- Jesus: Without Me you can do nothing but...
- I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me...

14 Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. 15 Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, **no church shared with me** concerning giving and receiving but **you only**. 16 For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities.

- Paul remembers Philippians previous kindness when in Thessalonica

17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.

Acts 20:35 "It is more blessed [happy] to give than to receive."

Giving is true having, as the old gravestone said of the dead man, "What I spent I had, what I saved I lost, what I gave I have." [Spurgeon]

- **Not about me:** Giving to others is a deposit in **your heavenly account**

18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.

- I have more than I need [chained to Roman soldier]

Littlest things can change a person's day

- **When I opened your package**

1. Sweet-smelling aroma
2. Acceptable Sacrifice
3. Well pleasing to...God

19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

- You helped me and God will supply you
- God will supply all our need...

Zechariah 4:10 [Don't despise/take for granted] the day of small things

- **More than our needs:**
- How much do we take for granted? How thankful are we?
- Little extra care we find in God's daily care package to each of us

1. Home
2. Family
3. Friends
4. Country
5. Freedom
6. Church
7. Word of God
8. Relationships with each other

Rejoice...again I say rejoice!

20 Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

- **Glory:** That which elicits/deserves praise

IV. Greeting and Blessing

21 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you. 22 All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar's household.

- Tell everyone we say hello. If we don't see you here we'll see you there

Here, there or in the air!

- **Gospel:** From Paul to the Roman Soldiers to those in Caesars residence

By the way...the Saints in Caesar Nero's household greet you

23 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

- **Paul ends as he began...**

Philippians 1:2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

23b...Amen.

So be it!