

New Life Christian Fellowship
Bible Study
Philippians – Chapter 4

In Philippians Chapter 4 we are encouraged to be unified in joyful prayer and to meditate on things that are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous, and praiseworthy.

Day One

1. Read verse one. Exactly how are the Philippians to stand and what is the “therefore” there for?
2. Paul describes a situation in verses 2 and 3.
 - What's the problem?
 - What solution is proposed?
 - How is the church motivated to solve the problem?
3. What does it mean to have one’s name written in the Book of Life? (See Rev 20:11-15 and 21:9-27)?

Day Two

Look at the table below. The word “joy” occurs six times in the Book of Philippians and the word “rejoice” eight times. From looking at each occurrence given below, what are three things the Philippians told to do with joy, and what 4 causes are the Philippians given to rejoice or be joyful?

| <u>Chap & Vs</u> | <u>Scripture from Philippians</u> |
|----------------------|---|
| 1, 4 | In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy |
| 1,18 | But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice |
| 1,25 | Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith |
| 1,26 | so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me |
| 2,2 | then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose |
| 2,17 | But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you |
| 2,18 | So you too should be glad and rejoice with me |
| 2,29 | Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men like him |
| 3,1 | Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you |

- 4,1 Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!
- 4,4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!
- 4,10 I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it

Day Three

1. In Philippians chapter 4 verse eight, Paul exhorts the Philippians to think on seven things as shown below. What about you? What can you or could you think about? Fill in the table below.

Things I can think about that are true, noble, right, pure, admirable, excellent or praiseworthy

- | | |
|----------------|---------|
| ▪ true | ▪ _____ |
| ▪ noble | ▪ _____ |
| ▪ right | ▪ _____ |
| ▪ pure | ▪ _____ |
| ▪ admirable | ▪ _____ |
| ▪ excellent | ▪ _____ |
| ▪ praiseworthy | ▪ _____ |

2. Do you think Paul experienced God's peace that surpasses all understanding that he speaks about in verse 7? Why or why not?

3. What peace do Christians enjoy that unbelievers do not?

Day Four

1. What are some things that the Philippians (and we fellow Christians today) should and should not do that will give them the peace of God in the verses below?

- Verse 4
- Verse 5
- Verse 6

- Verse 8

- Verse 9

2. Paul says in Philippians chapter 4 verse 12 that he has learned the secret of being content in any and every situation. What is that secret?

Day Five

1. How does not being content with our situation work against us and against our relationship with God?

2. Read the following passages of Scripture:

- I Cor 4:9-13
- II Cor 6:3-10
- II Cor 11:21-28

How did they help Paul learn the secret he mentions in verse 12?

Day Six

Put yourself in the Philippian church. Assume you were involved in the establishment of the church when Paul first arrives some time ago. And now some time later, this letter sent from Paul in a Roman jail was just read to you (all four chapters) for the first time. How does the letter:

- Excite or motivate you?
- Embarrass you?
- Challenge you?
- Make you look forward to the future?