

PHILIPPIANS 4:10-23 – Discussion Guide

Living Out Our Faith: Gratefulness for God's People & Provision

What is the difference between a thermometer and a thermostat (difference in purpose & function)? Are you a thermometer or a thermostat? Which one do you think God might want you to be?

This is the final study in a series that has taken us through the Apostle Paul's letter to his fellow believers in Jesus living in Philippi. You might find it helpful to read through this letter one more time before focusing on the last part that we are considering now.

Read **Philippians 4:10-23**.

As Paul begins to wrap up this letter, what does he say led him to rejoice in the Lord and what does he acknowledge in **Philippians 4:10**?

How is what Paul writes in **Philippians 4:11-13** an indication that he practiced what he commanded in **Philippians 4:4-9**? (Remember Paul wrote this letter toward the end of four years of incarceration!) What does Paul say he had learned? What does he mean when he writes that he "*can do all things through him who strengthens me*"? (To what "*things*" is he referring?)

What does Paul say about the Philippian Christians in **Philippians 4:14-18**? What have they done? How does Paul view what they have done? What does Paul say about himself – his situation?

Of what is Paul confident according to **Philippians 4:19-20**? Why do you think Paul can have this confidence?

Looking at the "postscript" – **Philippians 4:21-23** – we find some of the "usual" elements that were included at the end of letters like this. What does Paul write in these verses that should have been an encouragement to the Philippian Christians who may have been discouraged for Paul because he was still incarcerated? (A look back at **Philippians 1:12-14** might be helpful!)

If you have been along for the "journey" – with us as we have made our way through this letter – what has God taught you? What has God challenged you to do as a result of what Paul was inspired to write in this letter?

What has God shown you in the verses we have looked at in this study? What difference will His Word make in how you think and act as you seek to live out your faith in Christ?