

PHILIPPIANS LESSON 7
THE JOY OF GODLY TRUST, PURITY AND PEACE
PHILIPPIANS 4: 1 – 9

KEY VERSE: PHILIPPIANS 4: 6 – 7

A. INTRODUCTION

a. PAULS LAST CHAPTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS COULD BE TITLED. “PULLING IT ALL TOGETHER”. THE FINAL WORDS TO THE CHURCH, PAUL SUMMARIZES ALL OF THE MAIN FEATURES OF PHILIPPIANS.

b. FOR EXAMPLE:

***PHILIPPIANS 4: 1 - STAND FIRM - SAID IN PHILIPPIANS 1: 28**

***PHILIPPIANS 4: 2 – 3 GOOD MENTORS & FELLOW WORKERS. PARALLELS THE EXAMPLES OF EPAPHRODITUS & TIMOTHY PHILIPPIANS 2: 19 – 30**

***PHILIPPIANS 2: 5 – 11 QUALITY OF A HEALTHY CHRISTIAN STATE OF MIND THAT EXPANDS UPON THE MIND OF CHRIST THEME PHILIPPIANS 4: 7**

***FINALLY, HIS EXHORTATION TO “PRACTICE” EVERYTHING THEY HAVE LEARNED, RECEIVED AND HEARD FROM HIM REEMPHASIZES THE COMMAND PHILIPPIANS 4: 8 – 9**

***PHILIPPIANS 3: 17 PAUL EXHORTS THE PHILIPPIANS TO “COPY” OR “MIMIC” HIM AND HIS COWORKERS**

***PAUL IS A SUPERIOR WRITER, HE HAS SUCH SUPERIOR WRITING SKILLS**

c. FROM THE FIRST WORD TO THE LAST, PAUL HAS THOROUGHLY INTEGRATED EACH THOUGHT IN THIS GREAT EPISTLE

d. THE ADHESIVE NATURE OF PHILIPPIANS HAS BECOME CLEAR. YOU CAN SEE THE PATTERN OF PAULS THOUGHT IN PHILIPPIANS – YOU WILL SEE HOW ONE THOUGHT CONNECTS TO AND THEN BUILDS UPON THE NEXT POINT THAT PAUL MAKES. THIS WILL “HOLD” “TOGETHER” THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF PHILIPPIANS.

***CHAPTER 4 IS PAULS OVERALL PURPOSE IN PHILIPPIANS**

***PSALM 133: 1 – THE JOYOUS VIRTUE OF UNITY**

e. SPIRITUAL UNITY LIES AT THE VERY HEART OF GOD – THE HOLY TRINITY ETERNALLY EXISTS IN A STATE OF PERFECT UNITY, AND IT IS GODS WILL THAT HIS PEOPLE ALSO DWELL IN UNITY

f. THE PHILIPPIANS CHURCH WAS THE MOST TROUBLE – FREE CONGREGATION THAT PAUL HAD THE HONOR OF FOUNDING, YET THE PHILIPPIANS WERE NOT WITHOUT THEIR PROBLEMS

***THEY WERE TEMPTED TO WORRY WHEN THINGS DID NOT GO AS PLANNED**

***AT LEAST TWO OF THEIR MEMBERS ARE AT ODDS WITH EACH OTHER – PHILIPPIANS 4: 2**

g. FOR THE SAKE OF THE ENTIRE CHURCH, PAUL EXHORTS THESE TWO MEMBERS TO BE RECONCILED ONE TO ANOTHER A LITTLE BIT OF DISUNITY CAN UNDERMINE THE HEALTH OF THE WHOLE CONGREGATION

***MATTHEW 5: 9 THE WORDS OF CHRIST ON PEACE**

B. DISCOVER

***PHILIPPIANS 4: 1 STAND FAST - THE STANDING ORDER FOR A CENTURION IN THE ROMAN ARMY WAS TO STAND FAST**

***PAUL STATES THROUGHOUT PHILIPPIANS “TO THINK THE SAME THING”**

***PHILIPPIANS 4: 2 TWO WOMEN MENTION HERE**

- 1. EUODIA MEANS: “A GOOD FRAGRANCE”**
- 2. SYNTYCHE MEANS: “TO MEET TOGETHER”**

***QUESTIONS: WHY DO YOU THINK THE WORD “REJOICE” IS IN THE IMPERATIVE OR COMMAND MODE?**

***PHILIPPIANS 4: 1 – 9**

a. NAME PAULS THEMES AND IMAGES:

- 1. BE OF THE SAME MIND IN THE LORD**
- 2. REJOICE IN THE LORD**
- 3. BE GENTLE**
- 4. BE ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING**
- 5. BE IN PRAYER SUPPLICATION**
- 6. GIVING THANKS**
- 7. LET YOUR REQUEST BE MADE KNOWN TO GOD**
- 8. BE THE PEACE OF GOD**
- 9. GUARD YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS**
- 10. MEDITATE ON THINGS THAT ARE GOOD**
- 11. DO THOSE THINGS WHICH YOU LEARNED AND RECEIVE AND SAW**
- 12. LET THE GLORY OF PEACE BE IN YOU**

C. DISCERN

***QUESTION: HAVE YOU SENSE PAUL HEART IN PHILIPPIANS?**

a. THE SHAPES OF PAULS THOUGHTS IN PHILIPPIANS HAS BECOME QUITE CLEAR – PAUL IS VERY CREATIVE AND EFFICIENT WRITER. HE WILL REPEAT HIMSELF AS IN THE CASE OF JOY, BUT HE WILL ALSO ADD SOME NEW IDEAS.

b. WHAT GOES THROUGH OUR HEADS IS IMPORTANT TO GOD

***PSALM 139: 24**

c. WITH THE HELP OF GOD AND HIS SPIRIT, WE CAN CONTROL WHAT GOES THROUGH OUR MINDS

***1 CORINTHIANS 2: 16 “WE CAN HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST”**

d. WE MUST PRAY THAT OUR WAYWARD THOUGHTS WHICH DO NOT BUILD UP FAITH, OR ATTITUDES WHICH DO NOT REFLECT THE MIND OF CHRIST, WILL BE REPLACED WITH EVERYTHING THAT IS GOOD. HELPFUL AND HOPEFUL IN THE LORD.

e. HERE ARE SOME COMMENTS THAT WILL HELP DISCERN THE WONDERFUL TRUTH OF GOD CONTAINED IN PHILIPPIANS 4: 1 – 9

1. THE WORD CONTENTED IN CHAPTER 4: 3 REFLECTS MILITARY COMBAT

2. THE LORD IS NEAR 4: 5 PICK UP ON THE THEME OF THE SECOND COMING SET FORTH IN 3: 20

3. THE POSITIVE QUALITIES STATED IN 4: 6 – 8 HAVE BEEN TOUCHED ON PREVIOUSLY IN THE LETTER

***QUESTION: WHY ARE CONSTANT WORRY AND THE LIFE OF FAITH AT ODDS WITH ONE ANOTHER?**

***QUESTION: HOW MIGHT ONE LEARN TO BE INWARD CONTENT IN SPITE OF ONES OUTWARD CIRCUMSTANCES?**

D. DEVOTE

a. WE CAN CERTAINLY EMPHATHIZE WITH A PERSON WHO IS CONTINUALLY WRACKED BY PARALYSING ANXIETY AND WORRY – YET, AT THE VERY FUNDAMENTAL LEVEL, THAT PERSON DOES NOT HAVE A FAITHFUL AND TRUSTING ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD. – THEY DO NOT BELIEVE IN THE ESSENTIAL GOODNESS OF GOD – THEY DO NOT TRUST THAT HE WILL TAKE CARE OF THEM, SO THEY WORRY.

b. PHILIPPIANS 4: 1 – 9 TELLS US THAT BITTER AND NEGATIVE THOUGHTS MAY SPRING FORTH FROM DEEP HURTS IN OUR LIVES. – WE MAY HAVE DONE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DESERVE THIS PAIN, BUT IT IS THERE NONETHELESS, - YET DWELLING ON THE NEGATIVE NEVER LEADS TO A WAY OUT OF OUR DIFFICULTIES – IT IS ONLY WHEN WE REFUSE TO INDULGE THE LESSER APPETITIES OF OUR SOULS AND MINDS THAT WE REALLY BEGIN, TO GROW IN GRACE.

c. THIS IS SERIOUS SPIRITUAL WORK, IT IS THE KIND OF DISCIPLESHIP THAT CAN MAKE POSITIVE SPIRITUAL CHANGE, NOT ONLY IN OUR OWN LIVES, BUT ALSO IN THE LIVES OF THOSE ABOUT US – THIS KIND OF CHANGE WILL NOT COME EASY, FOR THE DEVIL WANTS US TO BE TRAPPED IN A VICIOUS CYCLE OF DREDGING UP THE NEGATIVE ONLY TO RECYCLE IT INTO MORE HARMFUL THOUGHT PATTERNS THAT DON'T HELP ANYONE. YET, THERE IS NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT TO STRIKE OUT IN A NEW DIRECTION IN OUR WALK WITH GOD.

d. THE TIME NOW IS TO DEVOTE OURSELVES TO THE SPIRITUAL CHALLENGES, - ASK GOD TO SHOW YOU THE WAY OUT OF OLD HABITS OF THINKING, BUT WE CAN'T STOP THERE! WE NEED TO ASK HIM TO LEAD US IN PATHS OF POWER FOR HIS NAME SAKE AND FOR YOUR BENEFIT.

e. NONE OF THIS CAN HAPPEN WITHOUT GODS HELP! WE MUST PRAY FOR GODS EMPOWERING PRESENCE TO ACTUALIZE HIS WORD IN YOUR LIFE.

***PSALM 19: 12 – 14**

f. FROM THESE WORDS, WE CAN TELL THAT THE PSALMIST UNDERSTOOD THE POWER AND THE PERIOD OF ONES INNER THOUGHT WORLD. – HE EVEN APPEARS TO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THE SUBCONSCIOUS AND HIS LIMITED ABILITY TO CONTROL THAT MYSTERIOUS REGION OF OUR HEARTS AND MINDS, BUT IT IS ALSO CLEAR THAT HE ALSO KNEW THAT GOD HAS THE POWER TO ENTER INTO THE DEEP RECESSES OF OUR HEART AND TO CLEAN HOUSE.

g. THIS IS GODS WILL FOR US!

***2 TIMOTHY 1: 7**

ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO REVEAL TO YOU THE DEATH – BEARING THOUGHTS AND ATTITUDES OF YOUR HEART AND MIND, DEATH – BEARING, BECAUSE THINGS THAT DO NOT LEAD TO LIFE IN GOD INEVITABLY LEAD TO DEATH.

h. WE NEED TO PRAY FOR GOD TO DO HIS KINGDOM WORK IN YOUR HEART – PAUL EXHORTATION TO THE EPHESIANS IS AWESOME

***EPHESIANS 4: 24**

i. LET'S LOOK AT THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS THAT CAN GUIDE US ALONG THIS CERTAIN PATH TO JOY:

1. PAUL CALLS THE PHILIPPIANS HIS JOY AND CROWN, BECAUSE THEY WERE VERY PRECIOUS TO PAUL
2. THE WORD FOR MODERATION IN 4: 5 CAN BE TRANSLATED "YIELDING" OR GENTLENESS. – PAUL HAS TAUGHT THAT THERE IS A TIME TO STAND FIRM AND NOT TO YIELD 4: 1 YET THERE ARE TIMES WHEN ONE IS TO BE GENTLE AND YIELDING
3. EXEMPLACY CHRISTIANS MODELS ARE A HALLMARK OF PHILIPPIANS

***PHILIPPIANS 2: 19 – 30 PHILIPPIANS 4: 9**

***QUESTION: WHAT QUALITIES IN YOUR LIFE WOULD YOU WANT OTHERS TO “COPY”?**

E. DISCIPLE

a. PHILIPPIANS 4: 9 MAKE A GOOD TRANSITION TO THE DISCIPLE, - THIS IS TRUE BECAUSE THE ROOT MEANING OF PAULS WORD FOR LEARN IN 4: 9 IS DISCIPLE. SO IN PHILIPPIANS, WE HAVE A REALLY – MADE MODEL FOR DISCIPLESHIP. I CONSIST OF THE KINDS OF ATTITUDES AND HABITS WE FIND IN PHILIPPIANS 4: 4 – 8

b. THIS KIND OF CHANGE THAT PAUL IS ENCOURAGING IN PHILIPPIANS 4: 4 – 9 WILL NOT HAPPEN OVERNIGHT. THE RENEWING OF OUR MINDS IS AN ONGOING PROCESS THAT CONTINUES UNTIL WE ARE FULLY CHANGED BY HIS GLORIOUS POWER.

***1 CORINTHIANS 15: 51 – 52**

c. ON A DAILY BASES, WE CAN DETERMINE TO TAKE STEPS IN THE DIRECTION OF “GLORY”. THAT IS WITH GODS HELP, WE CAN “PUT ON” THE NEW SELF THAT HAS BEEN RENEWED IN THE IMAGE OF THE ONE WHO CREATED US.

***COLOSSIANS 4: 10**

d. HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS THAT CAN ADVANCE OUR JOURNEY ALONG OUR PATH TO JOY IN THE LIGHT OF WHAT PAUL HAS TAUGHT IN PHILIPPIANS 4: 1 – 9

1. REJOICING IN THE LORD, REGARDLESS OF PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES. BY CHOOSING TO REJOICE IN THE LORD

2. EVIDENCING GENTLENESS, ESPECIALLY IN SETTINGS THAT ARE FULL OF STRIFE AND CONFRONTATION.

***PHILIPPIANS 4: 5**

3. STAMPING OUT ANXIOUS THOUGHT WITH PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING TO GOD

***PHILIPPIANS 4: 6**

4. REPLACING EVERY NEGATIVE THOUGHT WITH THOUGHTS THAT ARE TRUE – NOBLE – RIGHT – PURE – LOVELY – ADMIRABLE – EXCELLENT AND PRAISEWORTHY

***PHILIPPIANS 4: 8**

5. LIVING THE KIND OF SPIRIT – FILLED LIFE THAT OTHERS CAN LEARN AND COPY

e. PHILIPPIANS 4: 1 – 9 PROVIDES EACH BELIEVER WITH A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO DISCIPLE OTHERS IN THE LORD. IT'S POSITIVE, UPLIFTING MESSAGE IS GOOD MEDICINE FOR THE WORLD – WEARY SOUL.

***PRAY THAT THE LORD WILL LEAD YOU TO INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR JOY IN THE LORD – SHARE PAULS MESSAGE OF VICTORY WITH THEM**

***PHILIPPIANS 4: 8**

f. PRESCRIPTION TO HEAL THE HEARTS AND MINDS

***PHILIPPIANS 4: 10**

g. THE LORD MAY USE YOU TO DISCIPLE THOSE WHO KNOW WHAT THE LORD SAYS, BUT HAVE TREMENDOUS DIFFECULTY IN PUTTING GODS WORD INTO PRACTICE

h. PHILIPPIANS 4: 1 – 9 IMPACTS THE KIND OF THOUGHTS AND HABITS THAT BRING HONOR TO GOD – MOREOVER, AS WE CULTIVATE THE THOUGHTS AND PRACTICES OF JESUS, OTHERS WILL TAKE NOTICE OF THE GRACE OF GOD THAT REIGNS IN OUR HEARTS.

***PAULS WORDS ARE NOT SIMPLY WORDS ON A PAGE – THEY ARE WISDOM AND THEY ARE LIFE**

PRAY THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL MAKE YOU AN INSTRUMENT OF HIS PEACE

NEXT WEEK!

**LESSON EIGHT
THE JOY OF FREELY GIVING IN
THE JOY OF FREELY GIVING IN THE LORD**

