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Philippians 4

Philippians 4:1

Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, whom I long to see, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

† Paul's affection for the Philippians is strong, calling them his joy and crown.

† Standing firm in the Lord is the safeguard of the church.

† Ignatius (Letter to the Ephesians 11) likewise called the

church his crown in Christ.

Philippians 4:2-3

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord. Indeed, true companion, I ask you also, help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement as well as the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

† Paul addresses a dispute between Euodia and Syntyche, urging unity in the Lord.

† These women were laborers in the gospel, showing the vital role of women in the early church.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 59) refers to the book of life, echoing Paul's words.

Philippians 4:4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all people. The Lord is near.

† Joy is commanded, not optional, rooted in Christ.

† Gentleness must mark the believer's life, showing Christ's character.

† Tertullian (On Patience 3) emphasized gentleness and patience as central to Christian witness.

Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and pleading with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

† Anxiety is replaced with prayer and thanksgiving.

† God's peace guards the heart and mind beyond human understanding.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (1QS 11.21-22) spoke of God's peace

guarding His faithful, fulfilled in Christ.

Philippians 4:8-9

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

† Believers must discipline their minds to dwell on what is virtuous and godly.

† Thought life directs conduct, producing peace.

† Philo (On the Special Laws 4.133) emphasized meditation on virtue, though Paul roots it in Christ's peace.

Philippians 4:10-12

But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me, indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity. Not that I speak from need, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with little, and I also know how to live in prosperity, in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.

† Paul models contentment in all circumstances.

† Contentment is learned through experience and trust in Christ.

† Epictetus (Discourses 1.12) spoke of contentment, but Paul surpasses philosophy by rooting it in Christ.

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

† This verse is about enduring and thriving in every circumstance by Christ's power.

† True strength is found in dependence on Christ, not self.

Philippians 4:14-16

Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my difficulty. You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving except you alone, for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs.

† The Philippians uniquely supported Paul, showing generous partnership in the gospel.

† Giving is sharing in the work of Christ.

† Polycarp (Letter to the Philippians 4) praised their generosity as continuing in later years.

Philippians 4:17-18

Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek the profit which increases to your account. But I have received everything in full and have an abundance, I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.

† Paul views their gift as worship, a pleasing sacrifice to God.

† Generosity is fruit that abounds to the giver's spiritual account.

Philippians 4:19-20

And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

† God's provision is limitless, according to His riches in Christ.

† All glory belongs to God alone.

Philippians 4:21-23

Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

† Paul closes with greetings, even from Caesar's household, showing the gospel had reached into Rome's palace.

† Grace is Paul's constant benediction, the foundation of the Christian life.

† Eusebius (Ecclesiastical History 2.25) records how the gospel spread even into Caesar's household.

How it applies to us today

† Philippians 4 teaches us joy, unity, gentleness, and prayerful trust.

† Contentment in Christ is possible in every circumstance.

† Generosity and partnership in the gospel are pleasing sacrifices to God.

† The God of peace guards and supplies His people in the fulfilled kingdom.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Ignatius, Letter to the Ephesians 11 - the church as crown in Christ

† Clement of Rome, 1 Clement 59 - the book of life

† Tertullian, On Patience 3 - gentleness and patience

† Dead Sea Scrolls, 1QS 11.21-22 - peace guarding the faithful

† Philo, On the Special Laws 4.133 - meditation on virtue

† Epictetus, Discourses 1.12 - contentment in circumstances

† Polycarp, Letter to the Philippians 4 - generosity of the Philippians

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 2.25 - gospel reaching

Caesar's household

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