



~ Zoom Bible Study ~

TO LIVE IS CHRIST: A STUDY IN PHILIPPIANS

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Lesson Four – Philippians 4

This is a letter written by Paul to believers in Philippi, and it was read publicly.

Colossians 4:16: After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea.

Philippians 4:1 – 3:

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

²I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Paul always spoke the truth to the churches he established, but it was always with great and tender love.

Paul personally and publicly addresses two women to be “of the same mind.” Who were these two women?

Then as now, disunity, personal disagreements, internal fighting was a problem in the church. Even those who work together for the cause of Christ can have disagreements and allow those disagreements to be divisive.

Scripture gives instructions on how to work toward peace. Some of those instructions are found chapter 2.

“Make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the other” (Philippians 2:2-4).

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Love is absolutely essential for unity in the church between the leaders and those they lead.

1 Peter 4:8: Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

Covering over a multitude of sins does not mean looking over sins that need to be addressed. So, what sins should we as fellow believers “cover over”?

Are you a leader? **Remember that as leaders, love is the secret to your success.**

And all of us are under someone else’s leadership. So, here are the instructions for followers:



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Hebrews 13:17: Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

Do you have confidence in those who are your spiritual leaders: pastors, teachers, Bible study leaders, etc.? What should you do if you don't?

What if you lack confidence in your manager on your job? What should you do if you don't?

Philippians 4:4 – 9:

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

- **Rejoice** – that is a principle, not an option. It is a choice you make each day, each moment of each day.
- **Let your gentleness be evident.** How do you “let your gentleness be evident”?
- **Do not be anxious.** Paul goes on to tell us how *not* to be anxious. What is that?
- **Let the peace of God guard your mind and hearts.** This peace comes when you follow the instructions to leave your anxiety to God.
- **Bring every thought into captivity.**
2 Corinthians 10:5: We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Paul gives us the boundaries for our thoughts: true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, praiseworthy and excellent. Those are strict boundaries. Have you ever taken this seriously?

Philippians 4:10 – 13:

I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Contentment can be learned! How can you learn the secret that Paul had learned—to be content no matter what the circumstances?

What are some benefits of learning contentment?

Philippians 4:14 – 20:

¹⁴ Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. ¹⁵ Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; ¹⁶ for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. ¹⁷ Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. ¹⁸ I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

²⁰ To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Generosity is not just for those who have excess money or time or resources. Generosity should be a hallmark of a Christ-follower.

2 Corinthians 8:1-2: And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ² In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.

1 Timothy 6:18: Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

There is great joy in generosity. Have you looked for ways to be generous this Christmas season?

Proverbs 11:25: A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. How rich is his glory in Christ Jesus? Is there any limit? Is there any shortage? Jesus told us:

Matthew 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. What are “these things” that will be added to you?

Philippians 4:21 – 23:

Greet all God’s people in Christ Jesus. The brothers and sisters who are with me send greetings. ²² All God’s people here send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar’s household. ²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.