

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the

PHILIPPIANS

CHAPTER FOUR
HAVE THE PEACE OF GOD



Paul's great desire for the church at Philippi was that they stay focused on and committed to the furtherance of the gospel.

Philippians 1:27

²⁷ Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;



Chapter by chapter, he has exposed the things that can destroy the unity necessary for such an undertaking.

CHAPTER

2

Within the church:
Rivalries and worldly aspirations
that set one against another.



Have the *MIND* of Christ

CHAPTER

3



CHAPTER

4



CHAPTER

2

Within the church:
Rivalries and worldly aspirations
that set one against another.



Have the MIND of Christ

CHAPTER

3

From outside the church:
False doctrines that frustrate or
misuse the grace that is in Christ.



Have the KNOWLEDGE of Christ

CHAPTER

4



CHAPTER

2

Within the church:
Rivalries and worldly aspirations
that set one against another.



Have the MIND of Christ

CHAPTER

3

From outside the church:
False doctrines that frustrate or
misuse the grace that is in Christ.



Have the KNOWLEDGE of Christ

CHAPTER

4

Within the individual Christian:
Lack of trust in God resulting in a
fearful and uncharitable life.



Have the PEACE of Christ

Chapter 4: PAUL'S APPEAL TO HAVE THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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|----|----------------------------|---------|
| A. | Peace with the Brethren | (1-3) |
| B. | Peace with the Lord | (4-9) |
| C. | Peace in all Circumstances | (10-19) |
| D. | Conclusion | (20-23) |

Look for the answers to these questions:

1. What phrase is repeated twice in verse 1?
2. In verse 2, what was the solution to the division between Eudias and Syntyche?
3. What three terms in verse 3 demonstrate the teamwork needed to further the gospel?
4. What word appears twice in verse 4?
5. In verse 6, what should we do when we are troubled?
6. In verse 7, what happens when we cast our cares to God?
7. In verse 9, what did Paul say was the benefit of following his teachings and example?
8. What is the great thing Paul said he learned in verse 11?
9. In verse 17, why did Paul encourage the church to give?
10. In what way are our financial contributions and Christ's offering of himself similar?

Chapter 4: PAUL'S APPEAL TO HAVE THE PEACE OF CHRIST

- 
- A. Peace with the Brethren (1-3)**
 - B. Peace with the Lord (4-9)
 - C. Peace in all Circumstances (10-19)
 - D. Conclusion (20-23)

A. Peace with the Brethren (1-3)

Paul was very open about his love for this church and his desire to see them standing strong before God.

Philippians 4:1

¹ Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, **so stand fast in the Lord,** my dearly beloved.

A. Peace with the Brethren (1-3)

The people he brought
to the Lord were as
jewels on a crown:

Philippians 4:1

¹ Therefore, my brethren
dearly beloved and longed for,
my joy and crown,
so stand fast in the Lord,
my dearly beloved.

A. Peace with the Brethren (1-3)

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

¹⁹ For what *is* our hope,
or joy, or crown of
rejoicing?

Are not even ye in the
presence of our Lord
Jesus Christ at his
coming?

²⁰ For ye are our glory
and joy.

Philippians 4:1

¹ Therefore, my brethren
dearly beloved and longed for,
my joy and crown,
so stand fast in the Lord,
my dearly beloved.

A. Peace with the Brethren (1-3)

Paul's affection for this church was not because they had no problems!

Philippians 4:2

² I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.

A. Peace with the Brethren (1-3)

The *specifics* of this controversy are not known, but the *solution* is clear:

When Christians put on the mind of the Lord (as seen in Chapter 2), there is peace among the brethren.

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Εὐοδία (Euodia) and **Συντύχη** (Suntuche) were two women in the church of Philippi.

A. Peace with the Brethren (1-3)

Paul consistently acknowledged his female coworkers along with the men.

Philippians 4:3

³ And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and *with* other my fellowlabourers, whose names *are* in the book of life.

A. Peace with the Brethren (1-3)

Yokefellow = *suzugos*
a comrade or partner.

Laboured with =
sunathleo. To strive
together.

Fellowlabourers =
sunergos. A companion
in work, fellow worker.

Philippians 4:3

³ And I intreat thee also, true **yokefellow**,
help those women which **laboured with** me
in the gospel, with Clement also,
and with other my **fellowlabourers**,
whose names *are* in the book of life.

Each of these terms demonstrate the *teamwork* that
is needed to further the gospel.

A. Peace with the Brethren (1-3)

The identity of Paul's "true yokefellow" is unknown, but the instruction is good for all to hear.

Philippians 4:3

³ And I intreat thee also, **true yokefellow**, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and *with* other my fellowlabourers, whose names *are* in the book of life.

A. Peace with the Brethren (1-3)

Those whose names are in the book of life are the chosen of God. That fact alone should help Christians learn to value one another.

Philippians 4:3

³ And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and *with* other my fellowlabourers, **whose names *are* in the book of life.**

The Book of Life is Mentioned **6 times** in the Book of Revelation

1

Revelation 3:5

⁵ He that overcometh,
the same shall be clothed
in white raiment;
and I will not blot out his
name out of **the book of
life,**
but I will confess his
name before my Father,
and before his angels.

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and before his angels.

“He that overcometh” is “he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God” (1 John 5:5).

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2

Revelation 3:5

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but I will confess his
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and before his angels.

Revelation 13:8

⁸ And all that dwell
upon the earth shall
worship him, whose
names are not written
in **the book of life** of
the Lamb slain from
the foundation of the
world.

The people whose names are NOT written in the book of life will be the ones deceived by the antichrist.

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Revelation 13:8

⁸ And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

3

Revelation 17:8

⁸ ...and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in **the book of life** from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

The people whose names are NOT written in the book of life will be the ones deceived by the antichrist.

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4

Revelation 20:12

¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is **the book of life**: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Only the names of the saved are written in this book.

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5

Revelation 20:15

¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in **the book of life** was cast into the lake of fire.

Only the names of the saved are written in this book.

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Revelation 20:15

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6

Revelation 22:19

¹⁹ And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of **the book of life**, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Only the names of the saved are written in this book.

Chapter 4: PAUL'S APPEAL TO HAVE THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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B. Peace with the Lord (4-9)

“Joy in God is a duty of great consequence in the Christian life; and Christians need to be again and again called to it. If good men have not a continual feast, it is their own fault.”

MATTHEW HENRY

Philippians 4:4

4 **Rejoice** in the Lord always:
and again I say, Rejoice.

Philippians is a relatively short letter, but in it are 10 calls to rejoice!

- 1:18** What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do **rejoice**, yea, and will **rejoice**.
- 2:16** Holding forth the word of life; that I may **rejoice** in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.
- 2:17** Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, **I joy, and rejoice with you all.**
- 2:18** For the same cause also do **ye joy, and rejoice with me.**
- 2:28** I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may **rejoice**, and that I may be the less sorrowful.
- 3:1** Finally, my brethren, **rejoice** in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed *is not grievous*, but for you *it is safe*.
- 3:3** For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and **rejoice** in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.
- 4:4** **Rejoice** in the Lord alway: *and* again I say, **Rejoice**.

B. Peace with the Lord (4-9)

Paul gives instruction how to cultivate joy in your life.

Philippians 4:5

- ⁵ Let your moderation be known unto all men.
The Lord is at hand.

B. Peace with the Lord (4-9)

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- ⁵ Let **your moderation** be known unto all men.
The Lord is at hand.

το ἐπιεικής (to epieikes)

Your forbearance;
your gentleness,
your sweet reasonableness

B. Peace with the Lord (4-9)

Until we live in a carefree world, we must work to keep our minds free of care.

Philippians 4:6

- ⁶ Be careful [anxious] for nothing;
but in every thing by prayer and supplication
with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known unto God.

B. Peace with the Lord (4-9)

God cannot solve your problems until you let go of them.

Philippians 4:6

⁶ Be careful [anxious] for nothing;
but in every thing by prayer and supplication
with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known unto God.

1 Peter 5:7

⁷ Casting all your care upon him;
for he careth for you.

B. Peace with the Lord (4-9)

There is a rich benefit to releasing your problems to God.

Philippians 4:7

⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep [guard] your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.



The key to peace is trust.



Isaiah 26:3-4

- ³ Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace,
whose mind is stayed on thee:
because he trusteth in thee.
- ⁴ Trust ye in the LORD for ever:
for in the LORD JEHOVAH *is*
everlasting strength:

B. Peace with the Lord (4-9)

You enjoy or forfeit
this peace according to
the things you let
linger in your mind.

Philippians 4:8

⁸ Finally, brethren,
whatsoever things are true,
whatsoever things *are* honest,
whatsoever things *are* just,
whatsoever things *are* pure,
whatsoever things *are* lovely,
whatsoever things *are* of good report;
if *there be* any virtue,
and if *there be* any praise,
think on these things.

B. Peace with the Lord (4-9)

Despite all he'd been through, Paul was a peaceful man. That is why his counsel is so valuable. To this day, those who follow his teachings and example will receive the same benefit.

Philippians 4:9

9 Those things,
which ye have both learned, and received,
and heard, and seen in me, do:
and the God of peace shall be with you.

B. Peace with the Lord (4-9)

What greater comfort could there be than to know that the God of peace is with you?

Philippians 4:9

⁹ Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do:
and **the God of peace shall be with you.**

2 Corinthians 13:11

¹¹ ... Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace;
and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

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C. Peace in all Circumstances (10-19)

In this next section, Paul shows his gratitude for the support sent to him by the Philippian church, while making it clear that his faith and dependence remained only in God.

Philippians 4:10

¹⁰ But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.

C. Peace in all Circumstances (10-19)

Collecting the offering was one thing; delivering it to Paul in Rome was something else.

Philippians 4:10

¹⁰ But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, **but ye lacked opportunity.**

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“Paul rejoices that now at last, after a period of time had elapsed, the Philippians had sent him practical assistance in the work of the Lord. He does not blame them for the period of time in which no help was received; he gives them credit that they wanted to send gifts to him but lacked opportunity to do so.”

BELIEVER'S BIBLE COMMENTARY

C. Peace in all Circumstances (10-19)

But Paul was not wasting his days in worry about when the next contribution would arrive.

Philippians 4:11

¹¹ Not that I speak in respect of want:
for I have learned, **in whatsoever state I am,**
therewith to be content.

C. Peace in all Circumstances (10-19)

The world tells you that contentment will come when you get everything you want.

But the Bible teaches us that contentment is something that must be learned.

Philippians 4:11

¹¹ Not that I speak in respect of want:
for I have learned,
in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

C. Peace in all Circumstances (10-19)

The world tells you that contentment will come when you get everything you want.

But the Bible teaches us that contentment is something that must be learned.

Philippians 4:12-13

- ¹² I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.
- ¹³ I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

C. Peace in all Circumstances (10-19)

It is difficult to think of a verse more often used to teach something it does not say.

Paul knew he could face any circumstance when his strength was in Christ.

Philippians 4:12-13

- ¹² I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.
- ¹³ **I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.**

C. Peace in all Circumstances (10-19)

Paul acknowledged and appreciated the assistance the Philippians had given him. They were like the ravens that God used to bring food to Elijah.

Philippians 4:14-16

- ¹⁴ Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.
- ¹⁵ Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.
- ¹⁶ For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.

C. Peace in all Circumstances (10-19)

Even after he departed from their region, the Christians in Philippi continued sending support to Paul.

Their charitableness was important enough to GOD to be mentioned in the Word of God.

Philippians 4:14-16

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- ¹⁵ Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.
- ¹⁶ For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.

C. Peace in all Circumstances (10-19)

While it is true that some people promote giving under “a cloke of covetousness” (1 Thess 2:5) to make themselves rich, it is ALSO true that there are treasures in heaven for those who invest in the furtherance of the gospel.

Philippians 4:17

¹⁷ Not because I desire a gift:
but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

C. Peace in all Circumstances (10-19)

Generosity and love go hand-in-hand.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

- ⁶ But this *I say*,
He which soweth sparingly
shall reap also sparingly;
and he which soweth bountifully
shall reap also bountifully.
- ⁷ Every man according as he purposeth in his heart,
so *let him give*;
not grudgingly, or of necessity:
for God loveth a cheerful giver.

C. Peace in all Circumstances (10-19)

No one loses out for giving.

Luke 6:38

³⁸ Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom.
For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

C. Peace in all Circumstances (10-19)

As was mentioned in an earlier lesson, it was Epaphroditus who carried the offering from Philippi to Rome.

Philippians 4:18

¹⁸ But I have all, and abound:
I am full,
having received of Epaphroditus the things
which were sent from you,
an odour of a sweet smell,
a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

C. Peace in all Circumstances (10-19)

Christ's offering of himself is described in these same terms:

Philippians 4:18

¹⁸ But I have all, and abound:
I am full,
having received of Epaphroditus the things
which were sent from you,
an odour of a sweet smell,
a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

Ephesians 5:1-2

- ¹ Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;
- ² And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us,
and hath given himself for us
an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

C. Peace in all Circumstances (10-19)

Your gift to the church
is your acceptable
offering to God.

Philippians 4:18

¹⁸ But I have all, and abound:

I am full,

having received of Epaphroditus the things

which were sent from you,

an odour of a sweet smell,

a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

C. Peace in all Circumstances (10-19)

Giving is a indication of trust in your supplier.

Who is your supplier?

Philippians 4:19

¹⁹ But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

C. Peace in all Circumstances (10-19)

Your measure of peace
will never exceed your
measure of trust.

Philippians 4:19

¹⁹ But my God shall supply all your need
according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

A black-capped chickadee is perched on a small, brown, textured twig. The bird has a black cap, a white breast, and a black collar around its neck. Its wings are greyish-brown. The background is a soft-focus, snowy landscape with some bare branches. The entire image is framed by a white border.

Matthew 6:26

Behold the fowls of the air:
for they sow not,
neither do they reap,
nor gather into barns;
yet your heavenly Father feedeth them.

Are ye not much better than they?

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Paul concludes his letter with a greeting from those with him, and a benediction.

Philippians 4:20-23

- ²⁰ Now unto God and our Father *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.
- ²¹ Salute every saint in Christ Jesus.
The brethren which are with me greet you.
- ²² All the saints salute you,
chiefly they that are of Caesar's household.
- ²³ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all.
Amen.

Christians, like spiders,
find their way into king's
palaces.

Proverbs 30:28

The spider taketh hold
with her hands, and is in
kings' palaces.

Philippians 4:20-23

²⁰ Now unto God and our Father *be* glory for ever and
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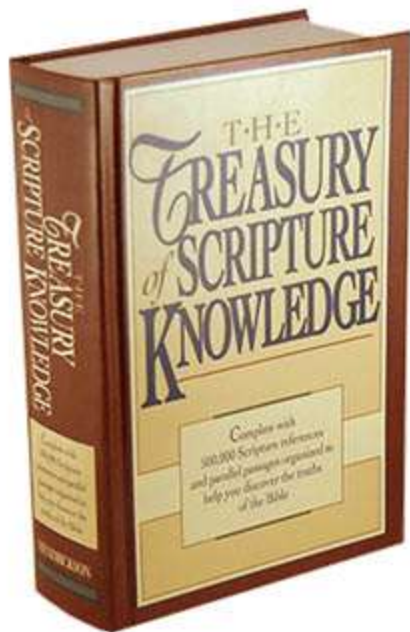
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²³ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all.
Amen.

This ends Paul's letter to the Philippians.



Overview - Philippians 4

- 1 From particular admonitions,
- 4 he proceeds to general exhortations,
- 10 shewing how he rejoiced at their liberality towards him lying in prison, not so much for the supply of his own wants as for the grace of God in them.
- 19 And so he concludes with prayer and salutations.

Questions to test your understanding:

1. What phrase is repeated twice in verse 1?
2. In verse 2, what was the solution to the division between Eudias and Syntyche?
3. What three terms in verse 3 demonstrate the teamwork needed to further the gospel?
4. What word appears twice in verse 4?
5. In verse 6, what should we do when we are troubled?
6. In verse 7, what happens when we cast our cares to God?
7. In verse 9, what did Paul say was the benefit of following his teachings and example?
8. What is the great thing Paul said he learned in verse 11?
9. In verse 17, why did Paul encourage the church to give?
10. In what way are our financial contributions and Christ's offering of himself similar?

Each question is worth 20 points. Do NOT share your answers with other students.



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