

Christ, Sufficient for Me

Lesson 10: Philippians 4

March 8, 2020

Outline of the Letter

- 1:1-11 Introduction
- 1:12-3:1 Life in Christ
 - 1:12-26 The result of Paul's suffering for the gospel
 - 1:12-18 The spread of the gospel
 - 1:19-26 Ministry perspective in suffering
 - 1:27-2:11 Conduct worthy of the gospel
 - 1:27-2:4 Characteristics
 - 2:5-11 The example of Christ
 - 2:12-30 Working out our salvation
 - 2:12-18 Characteristics
 - 2:19-30 The examples of Timothy and Epaphroditus
 - 3:1 Rejoice

Outline of the Letter

- 3:2-4:20 Pressing on in Christ
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 - 3:2-6 The flesh a false hope of salvation
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 - 4:2-3 Addressing disunity
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 - 4:10-20 Contentment and provision
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Addressing disunity Philippians 4:1-3

¹Therefore, my **beloved** brethren whom I long *to see*, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my **beloved**.

²I **urge** Euodia and I **urge** Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord.

³Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in *the cause of* the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

- Our unity with other believers is in the Lord
- We should help others live in harmony
- We need to watch out for internal church troubles

The Christian mind Philippians 4:4-8

⁴**Rejoice** in the Lord always; again I will say, **rejoice!** ⁵Let your gentle *spirit* be known to all men. The Lord is near. ⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brethren, **whatever** is true, **whatever** is honorable, **whatever** is right, **whatever** is pure, **whatever** is lovely, **whatever** is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

- Not anxious, but prayerful
 - Prayer
 - Supplication
 - Thanksgiving
- Peace as a guard over our hearts and minds
- We need to be careful about what our minds dwell on

Contentment and provision

Philippians 4:9-12

⁹The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰But 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. ¹¹Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. ¹²I know how to get along with humble means, 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.

- They were to practice what
 - They had learned from Paul
 - They had received from Paul
 - They had heard from Paul
 - They had seen in Paul
- The peace of God and the God of peace
- How can we be content and grateful for God's provision through others?

Contentment and provision Philippians 4:13-17

¹³I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. ¹⁴Nevertheless, you have done well to share *with me* in my affliction.

¹⁵You 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 but you alone; ¹⁶for even in Thessalonica you sent *a gift* more than once for my needs. ¹⁷Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account.

- We can only do things through God's provision
- The Philippians shared in gospel ministry from the start
- They gave though they were poor
- Giving to the Lord has spiritual benefit to the giver

Closing

Philippians 4:18-23

¹⁸But 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, well-pleasing to God. ¹⁹And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰Now to our God and Father *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.

²¹Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you.

²²All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.

²³The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

- Giving is a priestly work
- God is able to abundantly supply
- There were believers among those connected with Caesar
- The letter starts and ends with grace

Summary

- We are to stand firm in the Lord
- We are to be likeminded in the Lord
- We need to always rejoice in the Lord
- Our gentleness needs to be known by all
- We should not be anxious, but prayerful, which will lead to peace
- We need to be thinking about things that are good
- Faith should lead us to contentment

Philippians summary

- To live is Christ
 - Humble 2:6 2:3
 - Emptied 2:7 3:7-8
 - Obedient 2:8 2:12
 - Exalted 2:9 3:21
- Practical Christology
- Who we are in Christ allows us to
 - Be humble and serve others
 - Rejoice
 - Press on
 - View ourselves as citizens of heaven
 - Long for the resurrection