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
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  • 1:27-2:11 Conduct worthy of the gospel
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Outline of the Letter

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Addressing disunity
Philippians 4:1-3

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

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

3 Indeed, 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

4Rejoice 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

9 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.

10 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. 11 Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. 12 I 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