

LESSON 12 – “REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS”

Philippians 4:1-23

Summary

Chapter 4 continues Paul’s plea for the Philippians to be united and stand firm in the Lord, sharing a common mindset that was focused heavenly. Two women, Eudonia and Syntyche, are specifically encouraged, who along with the help of Paul’s “*true companion*” are to develop this common mind between themselves. Paul then turns toward the further description and development of this attitude, telling the Philippians how to change their thinking, so that they may not be distracted from their goal. Rejoicing is again stressed, in addition to putting anxiety out of their mind through prayer. Instead, noble, spiritual thoughts are to take the place of these carnal concerns. After Paul again encourages them to follow his example, he thanks them for their financial support, but he also explains how he has learned how to be content during times of need. Finally, he closes the letter with a prayerful benediction that their need be supplied spiritually by God as they have supplied his financial need for God. Greetings are extended and requested as the letter ends with one last prayerful blessing for their grace from the Lord.

Bible Reading With Questions

Sharing a Heavenly, Common Mind, Continued ... – Philippians 4:1-3

1. How were the Philippians to “*stand fast in the Lord*”? Use the logical connector words, “*therefore*” and “*so*” to help answer.
2. *Review:* Based on what we have studied thus far in this epistle, how would Eudonia and Syntyche have become “*of the same mind in the Lord*”? How would Paul’s “*true companion*” have helped them?

Developing and Adopting the Heavenly Mindset – Philippians 4:4-9

3. *Review:* Thus far, how many times has Paul either mentioned joy or admonished the Philippians to rejoice? Lessons.
4. How does knowledge of the Lord’s nearness promote development and manifestation of “*gentleness*”, “*forbearance*”, or “*reasonableness*” (depending on your translation)?
5. How can prayer soothe our anxiety?
6. According to verse 8, with what kind of things should we be filling our hearts and minds? With what are we *actually* filling our hearts and minds? If there is a conflict, what should give way?

Spiritual Support: Thanks, Contentment, and Strength – Philippians 4:10-19

7. Are some people *naturally* more content than others? Does that give anyone an excuse for material restlessness?

8. What are the “*things*” through which Paul could overcome through Christ’s strength? What are the limitations of this promise for us today?

9. Was the Philippian church a “sponsoring church” for Paul, collecting funds from other churches sending them on to Paul? After all, they were the only church to communicate with Paul about financial support?

10. What pattern is established here for the support of preachers? Was Epaphroditus a one-man missionary society?

Closing and Benediction – Philippians 4:20-23

11. What kind of surprising in-roads had the gospel made, while Paul was imprisoned at Rome? Is there any irony here?