

PLEADING FOR UNITY, JOY AND PEACE

Philippians 4:1-9

This last quarter of Paul's Letter to the Philippians.

- Introduces practical guidance for a Christ-centred life.
- Everyone has high and low moments in life.
- Life can bring us sorrows, difficulties, problems, disappointments, illnesses or circumstances that seem to drag on for years or even decades.
- Paul seems to indicate that sharing in church life, brings along both the good and the bad.
- The Philippian church experienced conflict.
- Some Christians disappear at the slightest conflict.
- Paul indicates we need to work through things that arise.
- Like a marriage, you cannot run, or hide or escape, because nothing will be resolved...

☞ This final segment begins with a series of appeals for unity, joy, Rejoicing and Living in peace.

☞ With great warmth, Paul pleads with his beloved Philippian Church to stand fast in the Lord – **v:1**.

☞ With great discretion and a call for assistance from others, he begs Euodia and Syntyche to be like-minded in the Lord – **v:3-4**.

☞ He calls them to rejoice always in the Lord, letting their gentleness be known to all, and through prayer and supplication with thanksgiving to allow the peace of God remove any anxiety – **v:5-7**.

☞ His final exhortation includes a call to meditate on things of virtue and worthy of praise, and to imitate his example in order to ensure that God will be with them – **v:8-9**.

Paul pleads for Unity, and Joy – v:1-3.

1. "Therefore" is linked with the previous chapter.
2. Identifies:
 - i. The onward push of believers' lives.
 - ii. The danger of false teachers.
 - iii. The knowledge that our citizenship is in heaven.
3. He pleads that all believers stay true to the Lord
 - a. Stand firm in the Lord.
 - b. Stand fast in the Lord, (Not tossed about) – **James 1:6**
4. He pleads with Euodia and Syntyche to settle their disagreements because they belong to the Lord
 - a. Urging them to live in harmony.
5. He pleads with an unnamed person
 - a. (my true companion, true yokefellow, my true partner,)
 - b. Clement mentioned here may very well be the same person who authored the writing – Clement of Rome—or 1 Clement, written about AD 95, though this is not certain.
 - c. He was obviously known to Paul & his church at Philippi when this letter was written.
 - d. To help these two women

Paul pleads with the Church to rejoice and live in Peace – v:4-9.

1. Always be full of joy in the Lord, Yes – Rejoice – **v:4**.
 - The word "rejoice" is a call to be filled with joy.
 - The term was a watchword among early Christians.
 - It was more than an expression of worship It was a keyword of salutation.

- We live in harmony with one another. Why?
- Because we are gentle, not anxious, and live in peace – **v:4:5-7.**
2. Let others observe how thoughtful you are in everything you do – **v:5.**
- And Oh! By the way = Don't forget something:
The Lord is coming soon
3. Don't worry about anything? – **v:6.**
- Yes! Just pray about everything.
- Tell God about your needs.
- Don't forget to thank Him for all He has done!
- Only then will we experience the peace of God.
4. The peace of God alone must guard our hearts and minds from anxiety at all times – **v:7.**
5. One final thing – **v:8.**
- ☞ Fix your thoughts on
- ☞ what is true, and honourable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable.
- ☞ Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. **NLT**
- 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. **NIV**
- whatever things are true, whatever things are noble,
- whatever things are just, whatever things are pure,
- whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report,
- if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. **NKJV**

- a. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honourable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable.
- b. Fill your mind with things that are excellent & worthy of praise.
6. Practice makes perfect: – **v:9.**
- Paul says, "Keep putting into practice all you have learned & received from me"
- Everything you heard from me and saw me doing.
7. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Living in Unity, and Joy, Rejoice and live in Peace

Pastor Charles Lazaro
SUNDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2021 @ 10.00 AM & 4.00 PM
WONTHAGGI & GRANTVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH