

PHILIPPIANS

A TEN-DAY DEVOTIONAL

Day One: Philippians 1:1-11

Day Two: Philippians 1:12-18a

Day Three: Philippians 1:18b-30

Day Four: Philippians 2:1-11

Day Five: Philippians 2:12-18

Day Six: Philippians 2:19-30

Day Seven: Philippians 3:1-11

Day Eight: Philippians 3:12-21

Day Nine: Philippians 4:1-9

Day Ten: Philippians 4:10-23

Day One

Read Philippians 1:1-11

1:1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:
2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. 7 It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. 9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Learn About It

All of us have experienced what it's like to have a good friend. A good friend is loyal to us, endures through difficulties with us, shares in the embarrassing moments of life, and challenges us to be the best we can be. When you have a friend like this, few things in life will bring you as much joy as seeing your friend succeed and accomplish great things. The Philippians were great friends of Paul. He cared tremendously about them. Even though Paul writes the letter of Philippians from prison, his primary concern is not about his circumstances, but the success of his friends. In this opening section, Paul offers a prayer of thanks for the Philippians because of their participation with him in his mission to spread the Gospel. In verse 6, Paul expresses his confidence that God has begun a good work in them, the work of salvation! Throughout his letter, he encourages his friends to pursue joy in Christ and peace with one another as they live as people who have been saved by God. For this reason, Paul prays that their love would abound (v.10), and from that love, that they would approve of things that God approves and be free from sin (v.10). Paul wants his friends to succeed by being filled with Jesus and living lives that bring him praise and glory. This is the greatest desire a friend could have for another.

Think About It

1. What are some qualities that you value in your friendships? How would you describe the friendship between Paul and the Philippians from this passage?

2. Read verse 6 one more time. How does God bring his good work into completion? How do the remaining verses in this passage help you answer this question?

3. Read verses 9-11. What would your life look like if the things Paul prayed for were true of your life?

Pray About It

1. Praise God for the work that he is currently doing in your life.

2. Confess to God that his work in you is not complete and that you are dependent on him.

3. Thank God that he does not leave you to figure things on your own

4. Ask God to increase your love for others, to give you a heart that desires the things he desires, and to fill you with righteousness until Jesus returns.

Memorize It

“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Christ Jesus”

Philippians 1:6 (ESV)

Day Two

Read Philippians 1:12-18a

12 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, 13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. 14 And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

15 Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. 16 The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. 17 The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. 18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

Learn About It

People often characterize themselves as either an optimist or a pessimist. Optimists tend to see the good that can come from every situation. Pessimists tend to see the world crumbling around them when life does not go according to plan. Paul's faith produced optimism within him. Though he was imprisoned for proclaiming the gospel, Paul believed his imprisonment was ultimately for a good purpose. Because of his imprisonment, the Gospel was making its way to imperial guards who did not know Jesus (v.13). His imprisonment also sparked greater boldness into other believers who were sharing the Gospel (v.14). Some were preaching the Gospel out of genuine, biblical love, but some who were sharing the Gospel were not doing it out of proper motives. Some were preaching for personal glory, not the glory of God. They were preaching out of a love for themselves, not a love for others. Paul knew that they did so to further add to Paul's torment. Once again, Paul chooses the route of the optimist. While Paul could have been upset at the selfish preaching of others, Paul chose to rejoice that the Gospel was being proclaimed. Paul's heart was filled with biblical contentment and joy in the proclamation of the Gospel.

Think About It

1. Do you tend to be more optimistic or pessimistic? What do you believe Christians should always be optimistic about?
2. How can your present circumstances lead you to greater boldness in sharing the Gospel?
3. What can you learn from Paul's response to the improper preachers? How can his contentment and joy increase your contentment and joy?

Pray About It

1. Praise for his sovereign control of all things.
2. Confess to God your pessimistic thoughts about his goodness.
3. Thank God for using your life to bring him glory.
4. Ask God to increase your boldness as you share the Gospel.

Memorize It

18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

Philippians 1:18a (ESV)

Day Three

Read Philippians 1:18b-30

18b Yes, and I will rejoice, 19 for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, 20 as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. 24 But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, 28 and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. 29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, 30 engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Learn About It

Some people are naturally born leaders and some leaders are born in trials. Leaders encourage, inspire, and rally others. Each of us can think of leaders in our lives who have helped motivate us. Some leaders are good leaders and are effective at creating a positive response from the people they lead. Others are poor leaders who fail to rally the troops. Paul was a tremendous leader for the early church. People looked up to him and were motivated by his faith and service to Jesus. In his imprisonment, Paul was unsure if he would be released or executed. Though Paul was unsure of his outcome, he was certain that Christ would be honored by it. If Paul were to live, he would do so for the glory of Christ. If he were to pass on, he would leave the afflictions of this present world behind and enter into eternal glory with Jesus. Though Paul ultimately desires to be with Jesus, he knows that the task he has been given has not been completed. Choosing to press on, Paul encourages his friends to live their own lives for the glory of Christ, a life that is worthy of the Gospel! Paul's encouragement is a rally cry to seek unity with one another and boldness in the face of opposition to the gospel. As a great leader, Paul knows what is ahead for his friends. Paul knows that suffering in the Christian life is inevitable, and he chooses to use his own suffering as an example for his friends to follow. Remain faithful to Christ and united to one another. Endurance is the appetizer of deliverance.

Think About It

1. Who are some of your favorite leaders from the Bible? What have you learned from these leaders?

2. Why does Paul say that “to die is gain?” If this is true, why would Paul choose to press on in his imprisonment?

3. What does a life worthy of the gospel look like? How can you live a life like this in your current situation?

Pray About It

1. Praise God that you have the opportunity to be with Jesus one day if you know him.

2. Confess the ways that you fail to live a life worthy of the Gospel.

3. Thank God for his forgiveness and grace to serve him better.

4. Ask God to strengthen your faith in him and unity with other believers.

Memorize It

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:21 (ESV)

Day Four

Read Philippians 2:1-11

2:1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Learn About It

Imagine trying to push a car out of a ditch cold, snowy day. It doesn't sound fun. Now imagine trying to push the car with three friends. The task would be much easier than going at it solo. But what if each of those friends pushed the vehicle from a different side? What if one friend pushed from the left, one from the front, and one from the right while you're in the back. Chances are you wouldn't be getting the car out. Each member would need to be in sync and push in the same direction. Having a team is great, but the team only works effectively when each member is working together to complete the same task. The same is true for the church. As Paul writes to the Philippians, he calls them to be united to one another in their minds and their love. For their love to abound and for them to approve of what God approves of, they must think of others as more important than themselves. This kind of love was modeled for each of us by Jesus. If there were ever a person who deserved to be selfish it would have been him. As we know from the Gospels, and as we are reminded by Paul, Jesus came not to do his own will, but to do the will of the Father. He came not to satisfy his own needs, but the needs of others around him. Jesus was obedient to God, even though obedience to God meant his own death. But by submitting to God in obedience, Jesus was exalted and glorified. Using Jesus as an example, Paul shows the Philippians that humility before God and unity with other believers is the road to glorification. While presently we struggle to be like Jesus, one day we will be glorified along with him if we model our lives after him.

Day Five

Read Philippians 2:12-18

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. 17 Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. 18 Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

Learn About It

The benefits of working out always sound appealing. Stronger muscles, better oxygen flow, and increased stamina regularly show up in topics of conversation around January 1st. By the third week of January, most people abandon their new year's resolutions. People generally enjoy being healthy, but most despise the work that is required to pursue such a lifestyle. Similarly, many like the idea of godliness but despise the process. Sanctification, or being made like Jesus, is a hard process. Paul tells the Philippians to work out their salvation. Their salvation needs to be stretch and strengthened in order to be effective. This process is only made possible because God is the one who is truly doing the heavy lifting. Nevertheless, we are all responsible for our role in this spiritual workout. As Paul calls the Philippians to humble service to one another, he instructs them to exercise their faith by holding their tongues. It takes greater discipline to be glad and rejoice than it does to grumble and complain. Naturally, we all lean towards grumbling and complaining more than we lean towards gladness and rejoicing. To shine as lights for Jesus and the gospel, we must discipline ourselves to serve Jesus without grumbling. Like starting a workout regimen, this will take tremendous effort and commitment, but the reward is worth the struggle.

Think About It

1. What is one of the hardest things you have ever accomplished? How did God give you the strength to accomplish it?
2. How would putting an end to grumbling and complaining help you proclaim Jesus to others?
3. How can Paul serve as an example for you to endure the process of sanctification?

Pray About It

1. Praise for his role in making us look more like Jesus.
2. Confess your personal stubbornness that may hinder some of God's work in you.
3. Thank God that he will one day bring your hard labor to a conclusion.
4. Ask God to continue to mold your heart into a heart of gladness and joy.

Memorize It

...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Philippians 2:12b-13 (ESV)

Day Six

Read Philippians 2:19-30

19 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. 20 For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. 21 For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. 22 But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. 23 I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, 24 and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.

25 I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, 26 for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. 27 Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. 28 I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. 29 So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, 30 for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

Learn About It

Every day there are men and women across the world risking their lives to protect our country. These individuals leave behind their homes, spouses, and children not knowing whether they will be seen again. When enlisting into the military, there are great risks involved yet people still do so because they recognize that the needs of their nation are greater than their personal needs and desires. Just as many men and women throughout history have given up their lives to the armed forces, many men and women have given up their lives in service to Christ. Paul mentions two specifically in this passage: Timothy and Epaphroditus. These two men were far more concerned with the needs of the Gospel than their personal needs. Their concern for the Gospel led them to be greatly concerned for Paul and the Philippians. Paul acknowledges that no one could be more concerned for the Philippians than Timothy. Timothy was like a son to Paul. Epaphroditus, likewise, was a faithful servant to Christ and to Paul. Though Epaphroditus was near death, his primary concern was for the Philippians who were grieved by the news of his illness. These two men serve as Paul's examples of exemplary living. As Paul encourages the Philippians towards humility and Christlikeness, he points them to these two men who have given up everything to follow and serve Jesus and his church.

Think About It

1. How does Timothy serve as an example of a life lived for Christ and the Gospel?
2. How does Epaphroditus serve as an example of a life lived for Christ and the Gospel?
3. How can you model your life to serve others as these men served Paul and the Philippians?

Pray About It

1. Praise God for the gift of godly examples.
2. Confess to God the ways you have failed to be a godly example to others.
3. Thank God for the investment others have made in your life.
4. Ask God to use you as a godly friend and example to others.

Memorize It

So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

Philippians 2:29-30 (ESV)

Day Seven

Read Philippians 3:1-11

3:1 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.

2 Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. 3 For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— 4 though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. 7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Learn About It

Nobody likes it when others try to one-up them. It's rare that others unintentionally one-up each other. When someone one-ups you, it's usually done intentionally. Likewise, when you try to one-up someone, you do so intentionally. You think that by one-upping someone you will appear better than them. You feel like you've won some sort of victory. In Paul's day, some individuals were trying to one-up people spiritually. Paul refers to this group of people as "the dogs." These people were a group of highly devoted Jews who loved to boast. Primarily, these people were boasting that they were circumcised and therefore were more religious than others. Their message was simple, if you want to be as religious as us you have to be circumcised also. These men had no desire to humble themselves and express love and unity to others in the church. These men were only concerned with themselves. Paul tells the Philippians to beware of such men and then proceeds to expose the foolishness of their boasting. Paul, a devout Jewish man himself, shares his résumé. Paul was a better Jew than all other Jews, but he did not boast in this. Instead, he boasted in what Jesus had done for him. His righteousness came from Christ alone, not his own works. All of his other credentials were useless to him. Knowing Jesus is all that mattered to him and it's all that should matter to us. Knowing Jesus changes our perspective on what is truly valuable and worth boasting about. For this reason, Paul can rejoice in the Lord.

Think About It

1. Why do you believe we have a natural tendency to one-up others? What do people boast in today?
2. Why is boasting in anything other than Jesus foolish?
3. Read verses 10-11 again. Why is Paul's boasting superior to that of the other Jews?

Pray About It

1. Praise God for being superior to everything else.
2. Confess times this past week when you have valued things above God.
3. Thank God that you don't have to depend on your own righteousness.
4. Ask God to help you boast in him today.

Memorize It

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

Philippians 3:8 (ESV)

Day Eight

Philippians 3:12-21

12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. 16 Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. 18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Learn About It

Learning to ride a bike is hard work. When the training wheels come off, there is a slight moment of panic for many children. After numerous failures, it would almost seem easier to go back to the training wheels. But once you finally get it and you're pedaling down the street on your own you know that you will never go back to those training wheels ever again. Paul treats his life before Jesus as a child who finally learns to ride a back treats his training wheels. Once Paul experienced life in Christ, he was never going to go back to the life he lived before Christ. His life now involved a pursuit of something far greater than his life before Jesus could have offered him. Paul's focus was now on pressing on in faith to the finish line, eternal life with Jesus. Paul knew that his eternal destiny was secure because of what Jesus had done for him, now he just had to get there! Paul encourages the Philippians to imitate him, an expert racer who is focused on obtaining his prize. Likewise, he calls them to imitate others who are living mature and godly lives. He warns that some have failed to keep their eyes on Jesus and have turned to other objects of worship. Paul does not want the Philippians to be like such men. Instead, he wants them to remember that they are citizens of heaven and therefore they can be certain they will receive the benefits of heaven if they continue to press on with endurance.

Think About It

1. What are some of the prizes that the world seeks? How do these prizes compare to the prize Paul is seeking?

2. Why do you think it is so important to imitate mature believers? Who are some of these believers for you personally?

3. What does citizenship in heaven guarantee for you? How can this be a present encouragement?

Pray About It

1. Praise God that he makes sinful people his own children.

2. Confess any temptations you have to wander off from the path of righteousness.

3. Thank God for keeping you close to him thus far.

4. Ask God to help you live as a citizen of heaven in a world that rejects him.

Memorize It

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ

Philippians 3:20 (ESV)

Day Nine

Read Philippians 4:1-9

4:1 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

2 I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. 3 Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Learn About It

Drama. Drama. Drama. No matter how hard you try to avoid it, drama seems to constantly pop up in our lives. When confronted with drama we have two options, we can either resolve it or feed into it. In Paul's situation, there was drama brewing in the Philippian church. Rather than feeding into it or avoiding the topic altogether, Paul chooses to confront and resolve. There had been an issue going on between two women in the church. The fact that Paul knew about reveals that the drama was widespread. Paul commands these two women to agree in the Lord. Set aside your differences and unite with one another in Christ. Paul has been working throughout the letter to the Philippians to unite them to one another as they have been united with Christ. The conflict between these women provides a perfect opportunity to practice gospel unity. Unity in the body of Christ should lead us to rejoice in the Lord. When relationships and conflicts are restored, we can see that God is at work. Therefore, we should pray to him with thanksgiving. There is no need to be anxious about anything because we know that God is at work. Though we know these things to be true, we must still force our minds to remember these things each day. Rather than resorting back to grumbling thoughts, the thoughts that often breed drama, we should think pure and excellent thoughts that honor God. In everything, we must continue to practice love and unity as we stand firm in the Lord.

Think About It

1. What relational conflicts are present in your life? How does God want you to respond to those conflicts?
2. What are you currently anxious about? How can the peace of Christ calm those anxieties?
3. How can you keep your thoughts focused on things that are pleasing to God and beneficial to others?

Pray About It

1. Praise God that he is the God of peace.
2. Confess any involvement may have in stirring up relational drama to God.
3. Thank that he hears and responds to your prayers.
4. Ask God to transform your thoughts into thoughts that please him.

Memorize It

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

Philippians 4:4 (ESV)

Day Ten

Read Philippians 4:10-23

10 I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. 11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. 12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

14 Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. 15 And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. 16 Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. 17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. 18 I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. 19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. 20 To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

21 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. 22 All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.

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

Learn About It

There is something special about receiving a gift from someone. In our digital world, it's easy to be impersonal. Sending a gift to someone requires intentionality. It requires care for the recipient and thought regarding the person's needs or desires. To send a gift to someone essentially communicates "I care about you." As Paul concludes his letter, he thanks the Philippians for a gift they have sent to him. What fills Paul with great joy is the concern his friends have for him. Paul was a man of contentment. God had shown him how to learn to be content in every circumstance and that contentment is made possible by God who strengthens him. Paul had no needs because God supplies his every need, yet he was glad to receive the gift from the Philippians. The gift reminds Paul of the history of support he had received from the Philippians. They were the first church to support him in his ministry. In thanking them for their support, Paul expresses faith in God's ability to supply their every need. If you remember from chapter one, Paul's desire was for the Philippians to abound in love and approve of what God approves of (1:9-10). Through Paul's words, and the work of the Spirit, Paul anticipates the church growing in these things. Likewise, we ought to continue to grow in love and unity by the grace of God.

Think About It

1. How does this final passage summarize Paul's entire message in Philippians?
2. How should the partnership between Paul and the Philippians encourage you to partner with other believers?
3. Why is Paul content despite his circumstances? What can a greater perspective on God's provision increase your contentment?

Pray About It

1. Praise God that he shows concern for us.
2. Confess your own discontentment to God.
3. Thank God for providing all you need in Jesus.
4. Ask him to grow your contentment, love, and desire to partner with others in the Gospel.

Memorize It

...for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.

Philippians 4:11b (ESV)

