

# Philippians

## Chapter 4, part 1

- I. Introduction
  - a. Paul has certainly been encouraging these believers to grow in grace and knowledge
    - i. Paul desired for these brethren to serve the Lord
      - 1. Certainly, every minister should desire this of those that he has been entrusted with
  - b. Today's lesson certainly continues to encourage these believers in their service
- II. Commentary
  - a. **Verse 1**
    - i. There is no doubt that Paul had great affection for these brethren
      - 1. The Greek word here translated "*longed-for*" refers to the deep pain of separation from loved ones
        - a. You can imagine if you have been away from a loved one for a long period of time
          - i. Paul compares his love for them in a similar way
    - ii. Paul's joy was increased when he saw believers prospering in the things of God
    - iii. They were Paul's "*crown*"
      - 1. That is, they were part of Paul's ministry which he would receive a reward for at the judgment seat of Christ
        - a. Certainly, their spiritual growth was assurance to Paul that God was using him
    - iv. Paul's desire is that they would "*stand fast in the Lord*"
      - 1. This must be the desire of every minister
        - a. Certainly, there is much in this – much more than living a moral life or understanding some basic principles of truth
  - b. **Verses 2-7**
    - i. Paul's desire is that Euodia and Syntyche would be of the "*same mind in the Lord*"
      - 1. It's impossible to know for sure who these women were
        - a. However, if they needed to be of the same mind, we can certainly deduce that must have been divided over something
          - i. It seems logical that this would have caused some type of division in the church
            - 1. Paul instructs them to fix this problem
            - 2. If we focus on the goal as a group, this will not happen
              - a. Paul has been teaching this in previous lessons
    - ii. There is no way to know exactly who this "*true companion*" is that Paul speaks of here
      - 1. However, his desire is that this person would assist these women in the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ

- 2. Paul also desires that these women help Clement
    - a. Nothing is known about this man
    - b. There are some books that claim to have been written by Clement of Rome
      - i. However, whether that is true or if this is the same man is impossible to know for sure
  - 3. Paul desires them to help all of God's sheep as they seek to work for the Lord
  - iii. Believers certainly have a reason to rejoice and should be doing so daily
    - 1. This should be the attitude that we portray to others
  - iv. Believers should be gentle people
    - 1. This trait should overflow to all people
  - v. Believers must always trust in the Lord rather than stressing out
    - 1. Certainly, our strength in the Lord grows as we grow
    - 2. We must always pray to the Lord in all things
      - a. When we do this, we will be guarded by the "*peace of God*"
        - i. This is peace that the world cannot give
- c. **Verses 8-9**
- i. The believer must meditate on the right things
    - 1. We should continually try to keep godly things on our mind
      - a. This is one of the reasons I try to listen to Christian music
        - i. Music has a way of staying on your mind
          - 1. If your music is worldly, there is no way you can meditate on godly things
        - ii. This is only one example
  - ii. Paul again urges these to follow his example as he attempts to imitate Jesus' walk