



KING'S CHAPEL

Daily Devotional - Philippians Study

Week 5 - Day 3

Approaching God

Read again Philippians 4:4-7

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

Opening Prayer: *Lord, Compose our spirits to a quiet and steady dependence on your good providence, that we may take no thought for our life, nor be anxious for anything, but by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, still make known our requests to you our God. And help us to pray always and not faint; in everything to give thanks, and offer up the sacrifice of praise continually; to rejoice in hope of your glory; to possess our souls in patience; and to learn in whatsoever state we are, there to be content.*

John Wesley

Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - Philippians 4:14-23

Slowly & carefully read the passage 2 or 3x's before taking notes & answering questions

At last we understand the full extent for why Paul is so grateful for the Philippian church's partnership or "koinonia" in the gospel. It isn't just that they have sent him money with Epaphroditus as their willing messenger. It is they have continued a habit which goes right back to the beginning of their relationship. This partnership is a key thread throughout the letter. (Phil 1:5, 7, 4:14-15)

Philippians 4:14-23

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.

Start with Engaging the Text: Take a few minutes to highlight, circle, or underline key words. Which words or phrases stand out to you as significant?

Daily Study Questions

You may find it helpful to read through the section: “Resources for Further Study” at the end of today’s study before answering these questions.

To Study the Passage:

- How had the Philippian church turned out to be different than the other churches Paul started?
- According to Paul, what blessings come from sacrificial giving?
- What practical help does this passage offer on being more grateful to God?

Meditation & Reflection Questions

- In vs. 19 Paul made the Philippians a promise, not from himself but from God. How has that promise proved true for you? Take some time to reflect on God’s provision.
- With whom have you entered or with whom could enter into a gospel partnership? One that might include some sort of suffering and sacrifice for the good news of the kingdom? Who might God be calling you to consider entering into some kind of partnership?

Close in Prayer:

Rejoice: - What 1 or 2 things can you praise and rejoice in from today’s study?

Repent: - What 1 or 2 things do you need to confess and ask for forgiveness?

Request: - What 1 or 2 things do you want to ask God for today as a result of your study?

Commentary on Philippians 4:14-23

4:14- He does not want them to think that he is ungrateful for their gift because he has said so much about how he really does not need it. So, he reasserts that it was the proper and helpful thing for them to do to send him money. By, “share in my troubles,” he probably specifically refers to his circumstances in prison. They may have given money to help cover costs of his imprisonment or trial.

4:15- He reminds them that soon after the church had been started in Philippi, as he left there (Macedonia) to travel and plant more churches, they were the only church that gave financially. They not only gave to him through money and probably prayers. But they also gained something. They received the spiritual blessings that he will discuss in 4:17-19 of being involved with ministry. It is amazing that this young church was the only one to help the apostle out in those days. 2 Corinthians 8 & 9 shed more light on the circumstances surrounding their giving.

4:17 - Lest they imagine he has moved away from the service-centered perspective of the earlier chapters, Paul reminds the Philippians that even his reception of their gifts is ultimately for *their* benefit. Likely using a business metaphor, he is seeking the fruit that increases to your credit - i.e. “the profit that accrues to your account”. God sees their sacrifice and is pleased.

4:18 - Paul is well supplied by the Philippians’ gift, and because it has been offered to him for the service of the gospel, he can return to images drawn from Israel’s worship. The gift is a fragrant offering (the Gk. *osmēn euōdías* occurs often in the Septuagint in connection with the “pleasing aroma” of sacrifices to God; see Gen. 8:21; Ex. 29:18; Lev. 4:31) and a sacrifice acceptable to God. While the literal offerings of the OT system have been done away with in Christ, the principle behind them of costly devotion to God remains.

4:19 - The Philippians had given out of poverty, not prosperity. (1 Corinthians 8:2) Paul reminds them that God will provide for all their needs, spiritual and material. He knows what is best and sometimes knows that it is better for us to suffer and go without some material thing that we think we need. He determines our true needs for our spiritual best, and then abundantly provides for them all although it may not look or feel that way.

4:21-23 - Greetings. The exhortation to greet every saint reinforces the personal nature of Paul’s communication and shows that the truths of the letter were to be lived out by real people in the real world. Caesar’s household could refer not only to the “royal family” but to anyone connected with the emperor’s service, including soldiers, slaves, or freedmen. It is likely that some of the latter group had responded positively to Paul’s message; there is no evidence that the emperor’s actual family were believers at this point. The fact that some within Caesar’s circles had believed would have had particular resonance in Roman Philippi.

Returning in verse 23 to the blessing of grace with which the apostle greeted them initially (1:2), and of which they are partakers (1:7), Paul re-centers a troubled Philippian church on the humble joy and fruit of the gospel. From first to last, the letter to the Philippians is a summons to grace—to receive it, to rest in it, and to work it out in one’s life.