

# The Book of Philippians Speaks to Christian Men about Giving and Service

Week Five

Patrick R. Turner

Date:

(2008 © Patrick R. Turner, All Rights Reserved)

## Introduction:

**2 Corinthians 9:7** Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

Author: Paul    Timing: 65-70AD    Audience: The believers at the Church of Philippi

The book of Philippians was written for several reasons. First Paul wanted to express in writing his thanks for the Philippians gifts and unselfish giving. Second, he wanted the Philippians to know why he decided to return Epaphroditus to them, so they would not think his service to Paul had been unsatisfactory. Third, he wanted to inform them about his circumstances at Rome. Forth, he wrote to exhort them to unity. Finally, he wrote to warn them against false teachings.

The underlying theme of the book is to describe the proper motivation for service and giving; namely a pure heart, a kingdom mentality, and an altruistic view of helping others. Chapter One has Paul congratulating and exhorting the Philippians for there hearts of giving and service. Chapter two gives them correction and reminds them that sanctification is ongoing. Then Chapter three emphasizes the Philippians roots in Christ and Paul's Gospel teachings.

## Chapter Four

**Phi 4:1** Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, *my* dearly beloved.

1. Recap ending of Chapter 3 and in that context explain, "so stand fast in the Lord."  
2 Pet 3:11-14, Psa 27:14, Rev 3:11

**Phi 4:2** I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.

**Phi 4:3** And I entreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and *with* other my fellow laborers, whose names *are* in the book of life.

2. Who are Euodias, Syntyche and Clement? What is the "book of life" and where was it first mentioned? Why is what Paul is encouraging so important, then and today?

**Phi 4:4** Rejoice in the Lord always: *and* again I say, Rejoice.  
**Phi 4:5** Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord *is* at hand.  
**Phi 4:6** Be careful [anxious] for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication [Petition; expression of need, Entreaty; humble and earnest prayer in worship] with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.  
**Phi 4:7** And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep [guard] your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

3. Rejoice, why? Be even minded and non-anxious, why? What is the “peace of God?” Discuss the incredible promise of v. 7 relative to service and giving.
- 
- 

**Phi 4:8** Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.  
**Phi 4:9** Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.  
**Phi 4:10** But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.

4. Compare v. 8 with 2 Cor 10:5 and describe where each draw you focus. After this set up verses 9 and 10 encourage the Philippians toward what? Is it convincing?
- 
- 

**Phi 4:11** Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content.  
**Phi 4:12** I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.  
**Phi 4:13** I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

5. Discuss how this passage speaks of surrendering your life and how this leads to the “joy beyond all understanding.” John 15:5, 2 Cor 12:9
- 
- 
-

**Phi 4:14** Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.

**Phi 4:15** Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.

**Phi 4:16** For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.

**Phi 4:17** Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

6. Paul was content and had no wants, so why did he encourage service and giving? Is it possible for us to be as altruistic (pure hearted) as Paul in today's world? 1 Tim 6:10
- 
- 

**Phi 4:18** But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things *which were sent* from you, an odor of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well-pleasing to God.

**Phi 4:19** But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

**Phi 4:20** Now unto God and our Father *be* glory forever and ever. Amen.

7. Paul says he has all and the Philippians will be blessed by God for their giving hearts. Who was being ministered to, Paul or God? Mal 3:10, Luke 12:30-33
- 
- 

**Phi 4:21** Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren which are with me greet you.

**Phi 4:22** All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household.

**Phi 4:23** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.

8. Who are the "saints?" What has Paul accomplished in this letter? What has God's Word accomplished in you in this study?
- 
- 

### Summary:

This last chapter to the book of Philippians has concluded this advanced lesson in the "Christian Walk." A heart focused on service and giving is living as Christ. The reward is one only known through faith. Christ came to teach service, giving, and sacrifice and then to die for our sins. He did this and found joy in the offering for He alone truly understands the prize of eternal life. This was and is the source of His joy in giving and we should focus on attaining such joy.

Thank you for attending,  
Pat Turner