

## Philippians 4

### Instructions to Specific People (v 1-3)

- Stand fast in the Lord. The only place we can stand fast is in the Lord. “All other ground is sinking sand.”
- “My joy and crown.” The Greek word for crown is the crown of the athlete who has won a competition, not the crown of royalty.
- Not everyone always gets along with each other in church! Euodia and Syntyche were two women who served Jesus, alongside Paul. Evidently, they had a significant disagreement.
- Paul wants them to find agreement by having the same mind in the Lord. In the church, there are times when we have to lay aside our own “right to be right” for the greater sake of Jesus.
- The greatest honor is to have one’s name written in the book of life.

### Final Encouragement (v 4-9)

- Rejoice in the Lord...always. True joy is found in our relationship with Jesus, not in our external circumstances.
- In case you missed it, Paul repeats himself: REJOICE! It must be important.
- Note that Paul’s encouragement to rejoice follows his urging of Euodia and Syntyche to work out their disagreement. It’s difficult to argue when you’re filled with joy in the Lord.
- Let all people see your gentleness, not just your family and friends.
- When we live in such a way that reflects Jesus is near (in position and time), it is easier to rejoice and be gentle. It is also easier to not worry.
- Do not be anxious about anything...HOW?????
- In every situation, pray and petition God.
- As you pray, have an attitude of thanksgiving.
- When you do this, God will give you his peace, which is beyond human understanding.
- His peace will guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus. His peace is greater than your greatest worry.
- Change your perspective by changing what you think about.
  - Whatever is true
  - Whatever is noble
  - Whatever is right
  - Whatever is pure
  - Whatever is lovely

- Whatever is admirable
- Whatever is excellent or praiseworthy
- Paul encourages the Philippians to follow his example. Make sure you have some mature believers in your life who you can follow.
- Live in such a way that you show other people how to follow Jesus. Walk the talk!
- As you rejoice, as you pray about everything with thanksgiving, as you change the way you think, as you imitate others who are more mature, God will fill your life with his peace.

## **Thanks and Final Greetings (v 10-23)**

- Paul appreciates the Philippians' concern for him.
- Paul has learned to be content in good times and in bad times.
- He has learned to be content in every situation.
- "I can do all things through him who gives me strength." In this context, Paul is saying the secret to being content in all things is to rely on the strength of Christ.
- The Philippians repeatedly gave Paul financial support. When no other church helped, the church in Philippi came through.
- There are times when our gifts are like a fragrant offering to God.
- As you give, God will meet your needs.