

STUDYING THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS ***IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS***

Lesson 8 - Exhortations - Philippians 4:1-9

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

PHP 4:1 Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!

PHP 4:2 I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord. [3] Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow,* help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

PHP 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! [5] Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. [6] Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. [7] And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

PHP 4:8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. [9] Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 8 - Exhortations - Philippians 4:1-9

84. How did Paul feel toward the Philippian congregation? (4:1)
85. What did Paul exhort the Philippian believers to do? (4:1)
86. Why did Paul plead with Euodia and Syntyche? (4:2)
87. How had Euodia and Syntyche helped Paul in the past? (4:3)
88. What was Paul's relationship with Clement? (4:3)
89. How could Paul count on his "loyal yokefellow"? (4:3)
90. What did Paul encourage his readers to do? (4:4)

91. How did Paul tell the Philippian Christians to treat others? (4:5)
92. How should an awareness of Christ's imminent return affect a person's attitude? (4:5-7)
93. What did Paul say about anxiety? (4:6-7)
94. What were the Philippians to do instead of worrying? (4:6-7)
95. How can a believer enjoy the peace of God? (4:6-7)
96. What are the qualities of wholesome thoughts? (4:8)
97. What were the Philippians to put into practice? (4:9)
98. How can believers enjoy the presence of the God of peace? (4:9)

Lesson 9 - Thanks for Their Gifts - Philippians 4:10-23

PHP 4:10 I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. [11] I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. [12] I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. [13] I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

PHP 4:14 Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. [15] Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; [16] for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need. [17] Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. [18] I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. [19] And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

PHP 4:20 To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

PHP 4:21 Greet all the saints in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me send greetings. [22] All the saints send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household.

PHP 4:23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 9 - Thanks for Their Gifts - Philippians 4:10-23

99. Why was Paul glad? (4:10-13)
100. What lesson had Paul learned about contentment? (4:10-13)
101. Why could Paul handle any kind of circumstance? (4:13)
102. What did the Philippians do about Paul's troubles? (4:14)
103. How did Paul feel toward the Philippian believers? Why? (4:14)
104. How had the Philippians supported Paul in the past? (4:15-16)
105. What did Paul not want? (4:17)
106. What did Paul want for the Philippians? (4:17)
107. What was Paul's current financial situation? (4:18)
108. How did Paul respond to the Philippians' generosity? (4:18-19)
109. How would God reciprocate the believers' generosity? (4:19)
110. To whom did Paul give thanks and praise? (4:20)
111. Who sent final greetings to the Philippians? (4:21-22)
112. To what did Paul give prominence in closing his letter? (4:23)

Bibliography

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