

Study 8

REJOICE IN THE LORD



Background

There is no perfect church. But of all Paul's epistles, most often occasioned by problems, his epistle to the Philippians was not occasioned by a problem. It was by far his most positive epistle. The mutual love between Paul and the Philippians is obvious in this epistle as evidenced by Paul's thankfulness for them and his encouragement for them to *rejoice*. As we have seen, the Philippian church was not immune from the threat of heretical teachers. But Paul was confident that they could withstand this threat. In the meantime, there was something he needed address that had been simmering with the potential to cause much damage. It seems that even *near* perfect churches still have something they need to work on.

183. Dr. Andrew Corbett

10 June 2022 at 10:26:41 pm
Phil. 4:2 ¶ I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord.

184. Dr. Andrew Corbett

10 June 2022 at 10:27:02 pm
The dispute between Euodia and Syntyche needed to be resolved.

185. Dr. Andrew Corbett

11 June 2022 at 2:15:28 pm
Acts 16:13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together.
Acts 16:14 One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.
Acts 16:15 And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

186. Dr. Andrew Corbett

11 June 2022 at 2:22:43 pm
Phil. 4:3 Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

187. Dr. Andrew Corbett

11 June 2022 at 2:23:22 pm
Paul want his true companion, almost certainly Dr. Luke, to help these women to reconcile.

188. Dr. Andrew Corbett

11 June 2022 at 2:38:38 pm
Paul's example of his

189. Dr. Andrew Corbett

11 June 2022 at 3:22:19 pm
Phil. 4:3 Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

190. Dr. Andrew Corbett

11 June 2022 at 3:21:49 pm
The Book of Life

183 1. Based on **Philippians 4:2** what was the simmering problem that needed to be addressed?

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Euodia ("You-oh-dee-ah") and Syntyche ("Sin-tick-ay") were quite possible sisters who served as leaders within the Philippian church. Euodia means *good* fortune and Syntyche means *brings* luck. Commentators generally consider that they names after Greek goddesses. That the Philippian church should have had female leaders should not surprise us. We recall from Acts 16 that when Paul and Luke arrived in Philippi that they met a group of God-fearing (Gentiles who worshiped the God of Israel) women who were meeting at the riverside (**Acts 16:13**).

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The Need For Pastoral Mediation

2. What does Paul urge his "true companion" and "fellow worker" to do to help these women? (**Phil. 4:3**)

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It is almost as if the entire epistle has led to this appeal. Paul has described his sufferings, how others had betrayed him, how there were many preachers who ridiculed Paul and preached from impure motives, how Christ had also endured suffering and ridicule, and yet despite all this Paul could *rejoice* that the gospel was being preached and Christ was still being proclaimed as Lord despite some mocking him and the gospel.

3. What message throughout this epistle might Paul had been sending to these two ladies? Discuss.

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Gordon Fee suggests that Philippi must have had a registry of Roman citizens which would have verified someone's claim to the privileges of such citizenship.

189 4. Note **Philippians 4:3** and note which registry Paul describes as granting even greater privileges than Roman citizenship -

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- 191. Dr. Andrew Corbett**
11 June 2022 at 3:32:16 pm
Phil. 4:4 ¶ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.
- 192. Dr. Andrew Corbett**
11 June 2022 at 3:35:35 pm
Matt. 5:23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you,
Matt. 5:24 leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.
- 193. Dr. Andrew Corbett**
11 June 2022 at 3:33:24 pm
It may be possible to rejoice in the Lord while having an unresolved conflict with another congregational member, but it would be difficult.
- 194. Dr. Andrew Corbett**
11 June 2022 at 4:33:12 pm
rejoice
- 195. Dr. Andrew Corbett**
11 June 2022 at 4:34:36 pm
glad
- 196. Dr. Andrew Corbett**
11 June 2022 at 4:34:58 pm
happy
- 197. Dr. Andrew Corbett**
11 June 2022 at 4:39:50 pm
delight
- 198. Dr. Andrew Corbett**
11 June 2022 at 4:50:40 pm
Phil. 4:21 ¶ Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you.
Phil. 4:22 All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.
- 199. Dr. Andrew Corbett**
11 June 2022 at 5:01:35 pm
Phil. 4:4 ¶ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.
Phil. 4:5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;
- 200. Dr. Andrew Corbett**
11 June 2022 at 5:07:16 pm
The New Testament command to 'rejoice' should be taken more seriously and it should mean that it would be reflected in our fellowship with each other. This should be a further incentive to reconcile with those we are estranged with. This would be a demonstration of our reasonableness to everyone.
- 201. Dr. Andrew Corbett**
11 June 2022 at 5:12:32 pm
Phil. 4:6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
Phil. 4:7 And the peace of God,

To “stand firm in the Lord” is not just a word for the individual believer, as such words are so often taken, but for any local body of believers. The gospel is ever and always at stake in our world, and the call to God's people, whose “names are written in the book of life,” is to live that life now in whatever “Philippi” and in the face of whatever opposition it is found. But to do so effectively, its people, especially those in leadership, must learn to subordinate personal agendas to the larger agenda of the gospel, “to have the same mindset in the Lord.” This means humbling, sacrificial giving of oneself for the sake of others; but then that is what the gospel is all about in any case. So in effect these exhortations merely call us to genuine Christian life in the face of every form of pagan and religious opposition.

Dr. Gordon Fee. 1995. *New International Commentary on the New Testament, Paul's Letter to the Philippians*. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

Rejoice in the Lord Always!

5. Is there a connection between a person's ability to participate in congregational worship, including the important aspect of such worship - *rejoicing in the Lord* - if there is some unresolved conflict with another congregational member? (Note Phil. 4:4, and Matt. 5:23-24) Discuss and defend your answer.

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To r _____ e is to be: g _ _ d , h _ _ _ y , d _ _ _ _ _ t . In Greco-Roman times this word was associated with *greeting* another person. It was the practice of the early church to have a time of *greeting* in their fellowship meetings - and most of Paul's epistles allude to this practice (note Phil. 4:21-22).

6. If Christian *rejoicing* is associated with greeting our brothers and sisters during our church gathering to cheer them, what does this mean for how we should approach fellowshiping with each other in our church services? (Phil. 4:4-5)

7. What further reasons does Paul give for rejoicing in **Philippians 4:6-7**? List them:

which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

202. Dr. Andrew Corbett

11 June 2022 at 5:13:41 pm

1. We do need to be anxious about anything
2. We can bring every anxiety we have to God
3. We can thank God that He hears all of our requests
4. God bestows His peace into our hearts
5. That peace guards our hearts and our minds.

203. Dr. Andrew Corbett

11 June 2022 at 5:22:20 pm
Phil. 4:8 ¶ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

204. Dr. Andrew Corbett

11 June 2022 at 5:22:49 pm
1. true
2. honourable
3. just
4. pure
5. lovely
6. commendable
7. excellence
8. worthy of praise.

205. Dr. Andrew Corbett

11 June 2022 at 5:25:37 pm
learned

206. Dr. Andrew Corbett

11 June 2022 at 5:26:28 pm
received

207. Dr. Andrew Corbett

11 June 2022 at 5:28:16 pm
practice

208. Dr. Andrew Corbett

11 June 2022 at 6:28:31 pm
Phil. 4:10 ¶ I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity.

209. Dr. Andrew Corbett

11 June 2022 at 6:29:15 pm
They sent financial aid.

210. Dr. Andrew Corbett

11 June 2022 at 6:31:51 pm
Phil. 4:11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.
Phil. 4:12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.
Phil. 4:13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.
Phil. 4:14 ¶ Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble.
Phil. 4:15 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.
Phil. 4:16 Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again.
Phil. 4:17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit.
Phil. 4:18 I have received full

8. What 8 things does the New Testament command believers to continually think about? (Phil. 4:8)

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In Philippians 4:9, Paul indicates that these mental exercises are l_____d and r_____d - because the Philippians had *heard* and *seen* Paul model them. He also reminded the Philippians that these things take p_____e.

9. What did the Philippians do that caused Paul to rejoice according to Philippians 4:10?

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10. Despite this act of kindness, what had Paul learned to do? (Phil. 4:11-18)

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11. Because of their generosity toward Paul, what principle and promise did Paul share with the Philippians? (Phil. 4:19)

As we have seen throughout Paul's epistle, *rejoicing* is not merely a matter of enjoying favourable circumstances - because Paul certainly was not enjoying favourable circumstances when he wrote to the Philippians. Throughout this epistle the apostle has pointed believers to focus on Christ and to seek to emulate His attitude especially when he was persecuted and eventually crucified. His concluding appeal to two women whom he cared for deeply present us with the challenge to learn how to forgive and to be reconciled with those we have hurt or offended. May we apply each of these lessons and learn how to truly *rejoice*.