

Overview of Philippians:-

Paul's Prayer for the Philippians. (1:1-12;) A) A prayer of thanksgiving:

- 1. Paul gives thanks for the fellowship he shares with the Philippians in the area of spreading the gospel message.
- 2. Paul give thanks for the sharing he has with them in the area of bonds, defence, and confirmation of the gospel.
 - B) Paul's prayerful request for the Philippians:
 - 1. Paul prayed that the Philippians would grow in knowledge and discernment.
 - 2. Paul prayed for the Philippians to have sincerity and purity of life.

Paul calls upon the Philippians to live a life worthy of the gospel message. (1:12-30;)

- A. Paul rejoices in the fact that the gospel is preached:
- 1. Brethren were motivated by his bonds.
 - 2. Some brethren preached form a pure and sincere disposition.
- 3. Some brethren preached a pure doctrine; however, their motives were sinful.
- B. Paul desires to be a part of the Philippians progress in the gospel.
 C. Paul calls upon the Philippians to walk worthy of the gospel of Christ.
 D. God has "granted" the Christian to both believe and suffer on behalf of Christ (1:29;)

Paul's love for the Philippians has been brought out in this study. He was very thankful to God that the Philippians shared with him in teaching, defending, and confirming truth. (Phil 1:3-7;)

Paul states, "For God is my witness, how I long after you all in the tender mercies of Christ Jesus." (Phil 1:8;)

Paul was concerned about the emotional and spiritual well being of the Philippians as they faced the onslaught of false teaching and persecution that threatened their unity and eternal heavenly abode.

(Phil 1:27-29; 2:2, 15; 3:2, 18;)

The Philippians were Paul's "joy and crown" in that he had taught them the gospel and earnestly desired to see them reach the end of their faith; i.e., a heavenly home.

Philippians 2:16; is a commentary on this verse.

Paul states, "holding forth the word of life;
that I may have whereof to glory in the day of Christ,
that I did not run in vain neither labour in vain."

With the context looking to heaven, Paul's earnest desire was that the Philippians would hold on to their faith until the end when Christ would come again and their bodies would be "fashioned anew" (Phil 3:20-21;)

To reach this goal and prize of God which is heaven the saints would need to "stand fast in the Lord."

a. To "stand fast" (steko) = "to stand firm, be constant, persevere, stay true."

Paul encourages the Philippians to stand firm and persevere in time of persecution. (Phil 1:29; 3:10), false teaching, (Phil 3:2, 18;) and evil influences. (Phil 2:15;)

To persevere in the face of persecution, false teaching, and evil influences the Christians would need to be constant "in the Lord."

Interestingly, Paul had told the Philippians
That gaining Christ and being found "in him"
would come by seeking after righteousness
through Christ rather than fleshly wisdom,
sharing in the sufferings of Christ, and
being conformed unto His death. (Phil 3:3-11;)

As I emulate the life of Christ I am in Him through the forgiveness of sins and a righteousness revealed in the gospel message. (Gal 3:27; Phil 3:8-9;)

Paul is clearly encourages the Philippians to keep reaching after the goal of heaven by remaining "in Christ" at all points of life. (i.e., the perfection of the saint is a constant in life.)

My actions must be based on the authority of Christ. (Col 3:17;)

My teaching must parallel truth. (2 John 9;)
I must keep myself purified from the defilements
of the flesh. (i.e., sin) (I John 1:9-10;)

"If we say we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and refusing to accept the truth.

But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong."

Phil 4:2; "And now I want to plead with those two women, Euodia and Syntyche. Please, because you belong to the Lord, settle your disagreement."

Paul attempts to heal a breach between two feuding Christian women. (4:2-3;)

Not a great deal is known about these Christian women:They were, at the time of this writing,
and probably had been for some time,
members of the congregation in Philippi.

At some time in the past they had harmoniously and enthusiastically laboured with the Apostle Paul and his companions in the preaching of the gospel. What they did we do not know, but we know from the later writings of Paul that they had not been preachers.

A serious disagreement had arisen between them, so serious that it impacted the work of the congregation. The Apostle found it necessary to publicly mention it, and encourage them to do better. He did this by name!

Phil 4:2; "And now I want to plead with those two women, Euodia and Syntyche.

Please, because you belong to the Lord, settle your disagreement."

To "exhort" (parakaleo) = "plead, to call to aid, call in, send for, to call on, invoke... to call to, exhort, cheer, encourage..."

Paul is calling upon, encouraging, and invoking both Euodia and Syntyche to be of the "same mind in the Lord."

Despite their differences, Paul still had high regard for them, as well as a deep-rooted affection, He desires that their problem be settled for it is Hindering the work of Christ.

Is it not strange how the devil can so easily convince us to quit the work of Christ who died to save us, and turn our attention to fighting among ourselves?

Phil 4:2; "And now I want to plead with those two women, Euodia and Syntyche.

Please, because you belong to the Lord, settle your disagreement."

Notice how Paul dealt with these women.

Just as he taught that we should deal with

one another in times of difficulties in 1 Tim 5: 1-2;

He implored (entreated, encouraged) Euodia, and Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. He did not try to figure out who was right or wrong, or remonstrate and place blame, he simply implored both women to be of the same mind in the Lord. Obviously their differences did not involve the pure teaching of the gospel.

Paul has spent a lot of effort in this letter to have the Philippians at one mind in the faith of the gospel so that divisions and loss of souls did not occur through the work of false teachers and persecutors. (Phil 1:27; 2:2;)

Phil 4:2; "And now I want to plead with those two women, Euodia and Syntyche. Please, because you belong to the Lord, settle your disagreement."

Here is further identity of what being "of the same mind in the Lord" is all about.

When I share a common goal of heaven with others, all will seek to have their actions based on the authority of God. (Col 3:17;)

Teaching nothing but truth. (2 John 9.)
avoiding confidence in fleshly wisdom. (Phil. 3:3, 9;)
Keeping oneself unspotted from the world
Aiming to be like the Holiness seen in God.
(I John 1:9-10;)

The Christian's goal is eternal perfection and glory with Christ. When the saints have this goal they will be "of the same mind in the Lord"

Phil 4:3; "I ask you, my true team mate, to help these women, for they worked hard with me in telling others the Good News. And they worked with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are written in the Book of Life."

Paul addressed this letter to the Philippian

Christians. (Phil 1:1). There was one specific individual; however, that Paul knew would be reading and sharing this letter out to the brethren.

We are not told who this individual is:(an elder, deacon, preacher,
one of Paul's travelling companions?)

The only identity of this individual is that he was Paul's true "yokefellow" (suzugos) paired, comrade"

As two farm animals would be yoked together pulling for a common cause so preaching men can be yoked together by the truth pulling for a common cause. (i.e., the souls of men.)

Phil 4:3; "I ask you, my true team mate, to help these women, for they worked hard with me in telling others the Good News. And they worked with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are written in the Book of Life."

Paul's encouragement to this individual is that he help these two women who are having a problem.

Euodia and Syntyche apparently had a fall out between each other over some matter that threatened not only their being one in Christ but could too affect the congregation as a whole. (some would side with one of the two causing a division.)

Paul's objective is to straighten the matter out. These women "laboured with me in the gospel."

Women too shared in teaching, suffering for the cause of Christ, yet subject to evil influences.

Phil 4:3; "I ask you, my true team mate, to help these women, for they worked hard with me in telling others the Good News. And they worked with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are written in the Book of Life."

Clement is another name that we know nothing about other than the fact that he / she laboured with Paul in the spreading of the gospel message.

Paul reminds his unidentified yokefellow that these women are comparable to other co-workers in the faith whose "names are in the book of life."

The phrase "book of life" occurs seven times in the New Testament (NT). All but one (Phil 4:3;) are found in the book of Revelation.

The book seems to be a registry of individuals who have had their sins forgiven. (Psa 69:28; Mal 3:16; Rev 20:12-15;) Exodus 32:32-34; indicates that one's name may be blotted out when found in sin or written again, through repentance and forgiveness, in the book of life.

Phil 4:4; "Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again-rejoice!"

Rejoice in the Lord always. One would think that we would be so happy because God saved us from our sins that the last thing we would want to do would be to nit pick the lives of our brothers and sisters.

Paul is saying: "Continually rejoice, be filled with joy because you have been Saved from your sins. Keep on rejoicing, don't stop rejoicing!

If we are not constantly remembering our conversion, and rejoicing that Christ saved us, we are likely to become sour, critical, and self-righteous thus destroying our hopes for eternal salvation.

Phil 4:4; "Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again-rejoice!"

Having a proper perspective of the trials, persecutions, and suffering that are a part of our life will bring joy. Our perception of life ought to be that we are simply citizens of God's kingdom awaiting with faithful patience our eternal kingdom.

Until our time of eternity comes there will be many bumps and bruises yet none are so severe as to remove our joy of heavenly thoughts.

2. Our rejoicing thereby is "in the Lord" for it is through Him that all heavenly goals and prizes are made possible.

Considerate "Forbearance" (epieikes) = "in moral sense, reasonable, fair, kind, gentle, good..."

yieldingness, sweet reasonableness
be known to all men, saint and sinner alike.

This word teaches that a Christian is to have the personality or disposition that is willing to forego their rights and privileges for the higher good of other men and women, Whether they are saints or sinners.

Phil 4:5; "Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do.
Remember, the Lord is at hand."
We live in a world where
it is difficult to be good, kind,
forgiving and considerate.
Most days the things that people do
just make us angry



LETTING GO OF ANGER.



Eph 4:26-27; "Be angry, yet do not sin" do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil."

Eph 4:31-32; "Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

LETTING GO OF ANGER.

"Anger is a strong feeling of intense displeasure, hostility or indignation as a result of a real or imagined threat, insult, frustration or injustice toward yourself or others important to you."



There are Three Main
Categories of Anger:Explosive Rage.
Suppressed Resentment.
Righteous Indignation.

LETTING GO OF ANGER.

Righteous / Unrighteous Anger God can become angry.

(Num 25:3-11; 2 Chron 36:16; Rom 1:18;)

14 "All the leaders of the priests and the people became more and more unfaithful.

They followed the pagan practices of the surrounding nations, desecrating the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem.

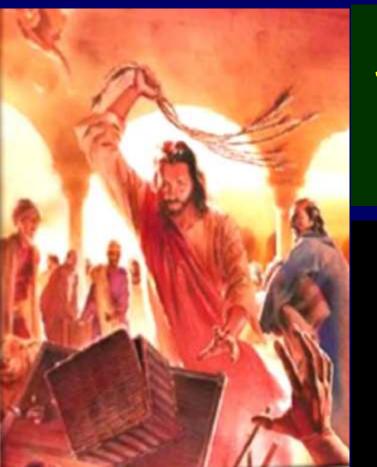
15. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, repeatedly sent his prophets to warn them, for He had compassion on his people and his Temple.

16. "But the people mocked these messengers of God and despised their words. They scoffed at the prophets until the Lord's anger could no longer be restrained and there was no remedy.

LETTING GO OF ANGER.

Righteous / Unrighteous Anger Jesus expressed righteous anger.

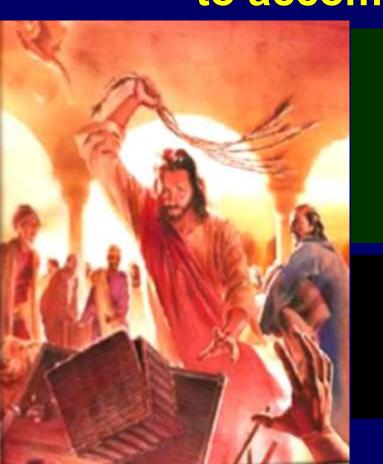
(Mark 3:2-5; John 2:13-17; Rev 6:16;)



Since it was the Sabbath,
Jesus' enemies watched him closely.
Would he heal the man's hand
on the Sabbath? If He did,
they planned to condemn him.

He looked around at them angrily, because he was deeply disturbed by their hard hearts. Then he said to the man, "Reach out your hand." The man reached out his hand, and it became normal again!

Phil 4:5; "Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do.
Remember, the Lord is at hand."
LETTING GO OF ANGER.
Righteous / Unrighteous Anger
Anger can move us out of apathy
to accomplish and achieve:-



Exposing sin and false teachers. Eph 5:11;
Standing up for the truth.
Jude 1:3;

Defending someone who is mistreated. Isa 10:2; Mat 23:14;

Phil 4:5; "Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do.
Remember, the Lord is at hand."
LETTING GO OF ANGER.
Righteous / Unrighteous Anger
Righteous anger is not vested
or dependant on sinful self-interest.



"Am I angry because I am questioned or criticized?" "Is my anger without a justifiable cause?"

"Do I have vengeful thoughts?

"Do I have an unforgiving spirit?"

LETTING GO OF ANGER.
Forms of Sinful Anger:-

"Bitterness" —a spirit of resentment "Wrath" -is a boiling agitated feeling.

"Anger" -seethes within a man and may break out in some word or action which attacks the person or character of the one against whom it expresses contempt.

"Clamour" -is the outburst of noisy contentions.

The original word meant to cry out.

"Slander" –railing or accusing another.

Same word which is used of those who blaspheme the name of God.

LETTING GO OF ANGER.

"Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, For anger rests in the bosom of fools." (Ecclesiastes 7:9;)

"A quick tempered man acts foolishly, and a man of evil devices is hated." (Proverbs 14:17;)

"A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."
(Proverbs 15:1;)

"A hot tempered man stirs up strife, but the slow to anger calms a dispute." (Proverbs 15:18;)

"He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit, is better than he who captures a city."

(Proverbs 16:32;)

"Do not associate with a man given to anger; or go with a hot tempered man, or you will learn his ways and find a snare for yourself."

(Proverbs 22:24-25;)

LETTING GO OF ANGER. Causes of Sinful Anger:-

Not getting our way:- Some people grow angry when they lose control of a situation.

Feeling rejected:- Being excluded, overlooked, or mistreated can stir up hostility.

Loss:- Losing what we cherish, or simply fearing that loss, can make us angry.

Disappointment:- Unmet and Unrealistic expectations can lead to anger.
Injustice:- When we are mistreated, we can become hateful, vengeful, or bitter.

Feeling inadequate: Comparing our life to the lives of others may upset us.

LETTING GO OF ANGER. Effects of Sinful Anger:-

The physical effects of anger are both immediate and long-term. -It's devastating to the body to carry bitterness, hatred and an unforgiving spirit.

It Destroys relationships –families, friendships, congregations, businesses, communities, etc.

Passive aggression occurs when we're angry about something but express our negative feelings in indirect or passive ways.

(e.g. sulking, cease communication).

Depression can be chemical, but most often it's the result of unresolved conflict in a person's heart.

LETTING GO OF ANGER. Consequences of Sinful Anger:-

Broken relationship with God. (Matthew 5:23-24;)
Broken relationships with others. (Ephesians 4:29;)

Absence of peace. (Hebrews 12:14-15;)
Critical spirit. (Matthew 7:1-5;)

Emotional Isolation.

Frustration and Anxiety. (Philippians 4:5;)

Obstructionism –oppose everything.

Lose enthusiasm.

Lack of Focus.

All this grieves God, Hinders His work,

And prevents His blessing.

LETTING GO OF ANGER.

Three Fold Warning of Eph 4.

"Be angry and sin not."

Make sure our anger is justified and controlled.

"Do not let the sun go down on your wrath."

Do not internalize your anger.

"Do not give the devil an opportunity."
The devil is looking for any open door to lead you into sin.

Phil 4:5; "Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do.

Remember, the Lord is at hand."

LETTING GO OF ANGER.

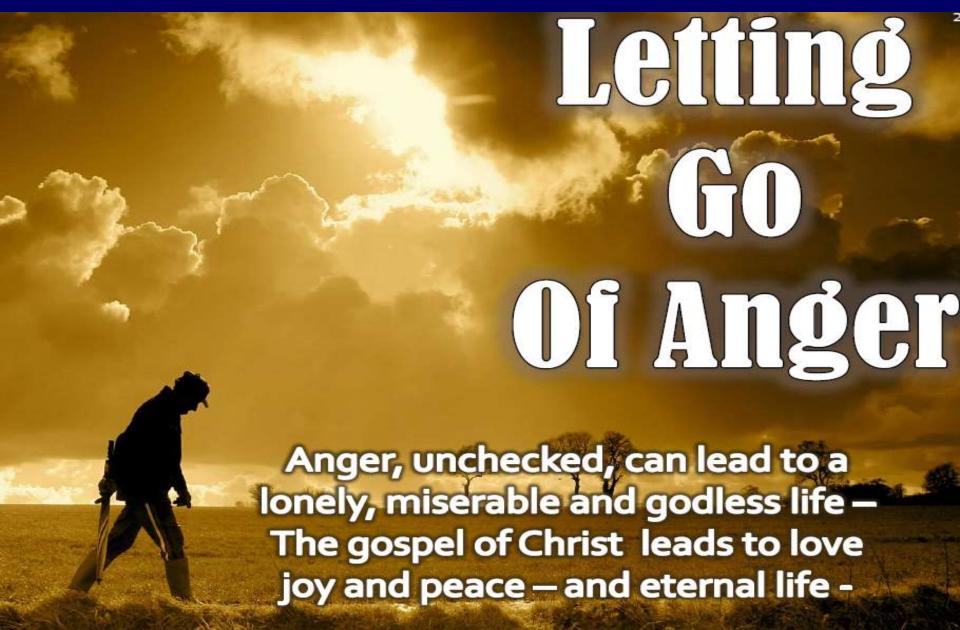
How to handle your anger!

Read God's Word and Pray for wisdom.

Always be ready to Forgive. Imitate Christ.

Acknowledge God's grace and count our blessings.

Apply Mental Discipline. (Philippians 4:6-8;)



Though the ungodly of the world would bring suffering (Phil 1:29; 3:10;) and causes of warning. (Phil 3:2;) The righteous are to be fair, kind, gentle, and good.

The Christian's forbearance is not only among other Christians but "unto all men."

In Matt 28 Jesus said that He would be with the Apostles to the end and in a sense He is near to each of us every day therefore we should consider this When tempted to cause others pain and suffering.

Paul said that "the Lord is at hand."
A great deal of misunderstanding results
from an improper interpretation of these words.

Some go so far as to teach that Paul mistakenly believed that the return of Christ was imminent in his day.

How could an inspired Apostle
Teach that which obviously was not true.
Such a concept reflects upon
the credibility of holy scripture!

Phil 4:5; "Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do.

Remember, the Lord is at hand."

The words "at hand," are translated from "eggus" which means near, either in time or in space.

When Paul made the point that he had just made, he simply reminded them that the Lord is nearby. See:- Matt 28:18-20; Acts 17:22-31; Notice verse 27; especially.

Also Psalm 19:151;

"God is near; He is not far from us,
He is with us."

See:- James 4:8; as well.

Phil 4:6; "Do not be over-anxious about anything, but by prayer and earnest pleading, together with thanksgiving, let your request be unreservedly made known in the presence of God."

To be "anxious" (merimnao) = "to care for, be anxious about, think earnestly upon,

Scan minutely... to be cumbered with many cares.

Don't be drawn in different directions.

Don't become confused."

Again, this verse helps us to see that our priorities must be straight in life. My life is not about the THINGS I have but rather maintaining my state of holiness before the Lord with heaven in my sights.

Jesus words on the Sermon on the Mount Come to mind. (Matt 6:25-34;)

- Phil 4:6; "Do not be over-anxious about anything,
- Matt 25 "So I tell you, don't worry about everyday life-whether you have enough food, drink, and clothes. Doesn't life consist of more than food and clothing? 26. Look at the birds. They don't need to plant or harvest or put food in barns because your heavenly Father feeds them.

 And you are far more valuable to him than they are."
- 27. "Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? Of course not. 28. "And why worry about your clothes? Look at the lilies and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, 29. yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. 30. And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow, won't he more surely care for you? You have so little faith!"
 - 31. "So don't worry about having enough food or drink or clothing.
 - 32. Why be like the pagans who are so deeply concerned about these things? Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs,
 - 33. and he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.
 - 34. "So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today."

Phil 4:6; "Do not be over-anxious about anything, but by prayer and earnest pleading, together with thanksgiving, let your request be unreservedly made known in the presence of God."

This is a highly beautiful, comforting, and unfortunately misunderstood verse.

Let us study it carefully.

"Be anxious for nothing." does not mean that the Christian is never to be caring or concerned about situations and other people.

"Don't be drawn in different directions.

Don't become confused."

When you learn what the will of God is stand firm on it.

To allow anxiety to throw us into
a state of confusion is a reflection on our ability
to understand, God's ability to make Himself clear,
and our faith in His word.

Phil 4:6; "Do not be over-anxious about anything, but by prayer and earnest pleading, together with thanksgiving, let your request be unreservedly made known in the presence of God."



⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Phil 4:6; "Do not be over-anxious about anything, but by prayer and earnest pleading, together with thanksgiving, let your request be unreservedly made known in the presence of God."

To be anxious, as the word is used here, means to have two conflicting minds upon some matter, to be drawn in two different directions at the same time.

Rather than being anxious we are to approach God in prayer, asking Him for help, thanking Him for blessings and help, and lay these matters at His throne and rest on His divine word.

Otherwise we will drive ourselves crazy with indecision and frustration.

Phil 4:6; "Do not be over-anxious about anything, but by prayer and earnest pleading, together with thanksgiving, let your request be unreservedly made known in the presence of God."

We are to "pray" (proseuche) = "to offer prayers or vows, to address Him in prayer...

to offer prayers, to worship... to pray for a thing."

We are to offer "supplication" (deesis) = "an entreating, asking: a prayer, entreaty."

These two words; i.e., pray and supplication, are very similar and illustrate the communication that exists between us and God through Jesus.

Christians are to make requests, regarding our physical and spiritual life, to God who hears and knows all things. (Matt 6:8; I Pet 5:7;)

The Lord is the "God of peace" (Phil 4:9;) that reconciles sinful man to Him through the blood of Christ. (Col 1:20-22; Heb 9:22;)

When the Christian's priorities are spiritual they will have little anxiety over things of this world. The peace offered by God thereby is twofold.

I can have peace of mind knowing that my sins are forgiven and that as long as I strive for to be like Jesus (aim for heaven) I will not be disappointed.

Secondly, I can have peace of mind in relation to earthly needs for God will take care of me as He sees fit.

God's peace "passes all understanding."

This does not say that one cannot understand all God has revealed to mankind that peace may be obtained. (Eph 5:17;)

Simply put, Paul tells us that our mortal minds cannot fathom just how great God's care and peace is for His created beings. All has not been revealed in this matter. (Deut 29:29;)

Truly God's care for me is not fully understood when I sin against His laws yet He continues to forgive me as I repent and ask for forgiveness.

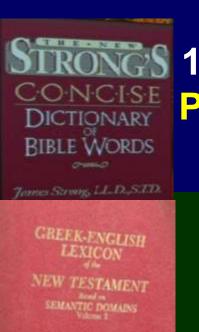


Complete
Confidence & Trust
in God

will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. The peace of God

Total
Dependence on
God - the
sovereign of the
universe

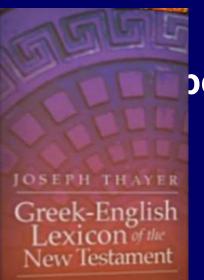
Attitude of Contentment w/ the spiritual, eternal & certain blessings in Christ



1515 eirene from primary verb eiro (to join) Peace (lit or fig) by implication – prosperity Peace, quietness, rest,+ set at one again.

1645 eirene 1. LN 22.24 Peace, harmony, tranquility; in certain contexts seen in the OT concept Shalom, i.e. welfare, health. Mt 10:34; Mk 5:34; Jn 14:27; 16:33; 20:19-21; Rom 1:7; 5:1; 15:33; Eph 2:14; Phil 4:7,9; Col 3:15; 2. LN 25.248 Freedom from worry. Gal 5:22;

- GREEK-ENGLISH
 LEXICON
 OF THE
 NEW TESTAMENT
 AND OTHER
 EARLY CHRISTIAN
 LITERATURE
 TREDERICK WILLIAM DANKER
 WALTER BAUERS
 WALTER BAUERS
 - 1. A state of concord, peace, harmony –between governments. Harmony in personal relationships. Good order 1Cor 14:33;
 - 2. A state of well being, peace, welfare, health synonymous with messianic salvation.



5. According to a conception distinctly peculiar to Christianity, the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is.

"The deep tranquility of a soul resting wholly upon God:the antithesis to the solicitude engendered by the world and worldliness" Ellicott. 102.103;



John 14:27; "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

John 16:33; "I have told you all this so that you may find peace in me. In the world you will have hardship, but be courageous:

I have conquered the world."



Phil 4:7; "If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."

The Christian's mind (hearts and thoughts) are guarded by God's peace when our perspective of life is correct (i.e., when I press on for my future glorious perfection in the here and now.)

Striving to be the best I can be.

Note:- that Paul repeatedly mentions the Christian's state with being "in the Lord," "in Christ Jesus," or "in him" (1:14; 2:19, 24, 29; 3:1, 3, 9, 14; 4:1, 2, 4, 7; 4:21;)

Clearly, the term indicates one's state of being in relationship to the Lord's authorized words. (Col 3:17;)



It is all about who you trust:Matt 6:25-34;



EXAMPLES OF PEACE:-

Jesus before High Priest and Pilate - (John 18,19;)

Steven on trial - (Acts 7;)

James put to death,
Herod plans to kill Peter –
Peter sleeps - (Acts 12:1-12; - vs 6;)

Paul preparing for death – 2 Tim 1:12; 4:6-8;



Peace with God is based upon what God has done for us. Eph 2:1-14; Titus 2:11-3:8; Heb 13:20-21;

Peace with God is conditional upon our acceptance and obedience To His revealed will.

Phil 4:9; Col 3:15; Prov 3:15;

HOW CAN I HAVE PEACE?

It comes from Jesus.
John 14:27; Isa 9:6; John 16:33;

It is available to us through our acceptance of the forgiveness of sins through His blood. Matt 28:19-20; Acts 2:36-38; Acts 10;6-43; 22:16;

The result of our acceptance of Christ:Peace with God. Rom 5:1; Eph 2:12-13;
Peace with others. Eph 2:14-16;
Peace with self. Phil 4:7; Col 3:5;

The Lord is the "God of peace." (Phil 4:9;) Who reconciles sinful man to Him through the blood of Christ. (Col 1:20-22; Heb 9:22;)

When the Christian's priorities are spiritual we will have little anxiety over things of this world.

The peace offered by God is seen in two ways.

1. I can have peace of mind knowing that my sins are forgiven as long as I remain faithful in Christ His blood will continue to cleanse me.

2. I can have peace of mind in relation to earthly needs for God will take care of me as He sees fit. God gives us what we need not what we want.

God's peace "passes all understanding."
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(Eph 5:17;)

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God's care and peace is for His created beings.

All has not been revealed in this matter.

(Deut 29:29;)

Truly God's care for me is not fully understood when I sin against His laws yet He continues to forgive me as I ask.

The Christian's mind (hearts and thoughts) are guarded by God's peace when our perspective of life is correct.

When out of appreciation of God's grace I strive to become what God wants me to be.

Which a reflection of His son and His example.

I press toward the goal of sharing eternity with God by striving to help others see Jesus living and active in my thoughts and actions.

Note that Paul repeatedly mentions the Christian's state as being:-"in the Lord," "in Christ Jesus," or "in him." (1:14; 2:19, 24, 29; 3:1, 3, 9, 14; 4:1, 2, 4, 7; 4:21;)

Clearly, the term indicates one's state of faithful obedience to His word. (Col 3:17;)

"And whatever you do or say, let it be as a representative of the Lord Jesus, all the while giving thanks through him to God the Father."

Jesus says, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." John 14:15; God's will is in His word, His commandments. In the new covenant, God writes His commandments in my heart.

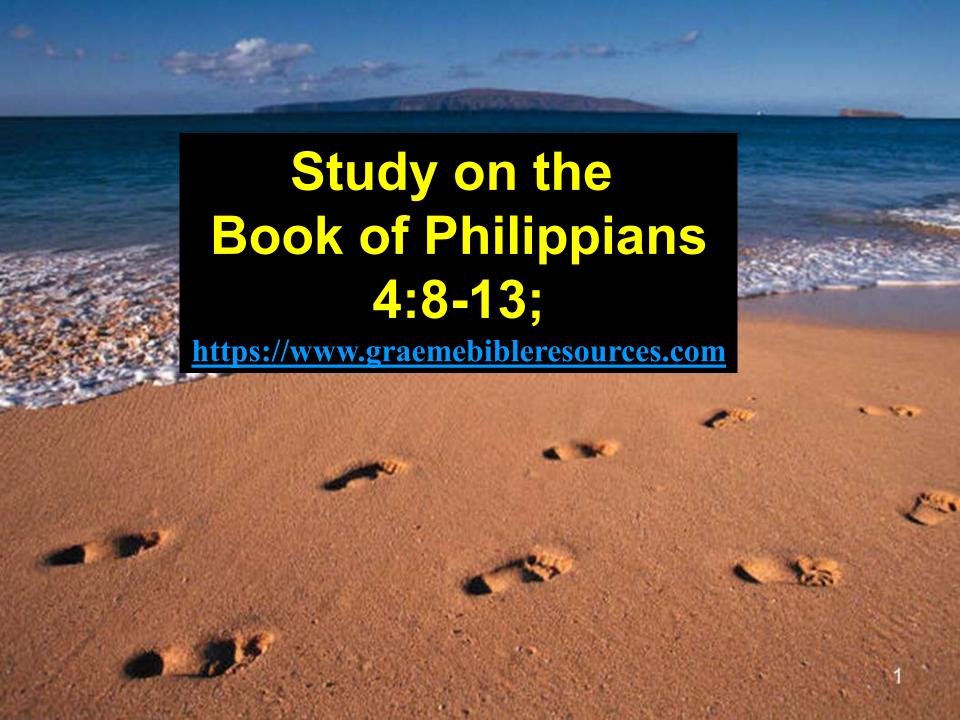
Study on the Book of Philippians 4:1-7;

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Next in the series:- Phil 4:8-13;





8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

Paul encourages the Philippians to "think" on six things. The word "think" (logizomai):
" to take into account, calculate, consider or ponder."

It would be easy for the Philippians
to ponder or consider their suffering. Phil 1:29;
Evil influences. Phil 2:15;
Dogs and evil workers. Phil 3:2;
and present problems revolving around their unity.
Phil 4:2-3;

Paul encourages the Philippians to rather think about these 6 things:-

First, let the Christian think on things that are "true" (alethes) = "unconcealed, true... reality"

This Greek word is found several times in the NT.
Its meanings vary from speaking of things
that are correct as opposed to false,
truth as opposed to a lie,

The Christian's mind should ponder upon the reality of God and His truth.

Heaven is real and God's truths reveal it so!

Secondly, let the Christian ponder upon "honourable" things.

The word "honourable" (semnos) = "revered, august, holy, awefull, of things divine"

The Christian's mind is to ponder the great "revered, holy, and awefull" name of Yahweh God.

To have a mind filled with thoughts of God is to have a mind or attitude or spirit of truth. (John 4:1-6;)

Thirdly, the Philippians are encouraged to ponder upon "just" things.

The word "just" (dikaios) =
"to speak quite exactly, right, lawful, just.
real, genuine, true."

The word "just" (exact, right, lawful, just, true) infers a standard by which men are to be measured.

The standard is revealed in the NT to be the word of God (Rom 7:12;)

The word "just" often represents the state of the Christian in relationship to the standard of God's word. (Rom 5:19; Heb 12:23;)

Fourthly, Paul encourages the Philippian brethren to think and ponder upon thoughts that are "pure." "Pure" (hagnos) thoughts are "chaste, undefiled, pure from blood, guiltless... pure upright."

My mind should ponder thoughts that represent the standard of truth as opposed to thinking upon those things that affront truth (i.e., theft, adultery, fornication, murder, envy, etc.)

Fifthly, the Philippians are encouraged to think upon things that are "lovely." (prosphiles) thoughts are "dear, beloved... of things: pleasing, agreeable, grateful, dear... Of persons: kindly affection, grateful, well disposed."

This is the only place in the NT that this word is found.

Certainly the Christian is to think thoughts that are kind, grateful, and have a godly demeanour or attitude.

Sixth, Paul encourages the brethren to ponder
Upon things of a "good report" (euphemos) =
"uttering sounds of good omen, or abstaining from
inauspicious words, uttering words of religious thought,
i.e. keeping a holy silence...

in positive sense: auspicious (favourable or successful) with or in words of good omen."

Paul's thought is that we are to think on words that help us to be saved and stay saved.

The teaching of Christ is the only set of instructions that leads us to The forgiveness of our sins.

Let us think on these words for they will succeed in saving man's soul.

Sin can cause one to be Recognized as unjust (unrighteous) and thereby the true just shall live by faith. (Heb 10:38;)

Paul summarizes the six virtues listed above with the words "virtue" and "praise."

The attributes of a Christian are to be "virtuous" (arête) = "virtue (of moral excellence and righteousness; goodness), uprightness."

The attributes of a Christian are to be of "praise" (epainos) = "approval, praise, commendation."

The six virtues listed in Philippians 4:8; illustrate the Christian's moral excellence and approved state before God.

Phil 4:9; "Keep putting into practice all you learned from me and heard from me and saw me doing, and the God of peace will be with you."



The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you. ¹⁰ But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. Phil 4:9; "Keep putting into practice all you learned from me and heard from me and saw me doing, and the God of peace will be with you."

It seems apparent that there is a connection between the thoughts of verse 8 and 9.

Paul is encouraging the Philippians to make the six virtues of moral excellence A part of their lives.

When Paul was in the presence of the Philippians this was how he behaved himself and so Paul serves as an example to them.

Paul taught the truth, and lived the truth. He exercised reverence toward God,

He stood without condemnation in the presence of God, one whose thoughts were pure, he displayed affection and gratefulness toward men, and relied upon the one truth that will save men's souls.

The Philippians "learned, received, heard, and saw" these virtues in Paul and so are encouraged to make them a part of their lives.

The entire thought seems to be best summarized in that Paul respected God's authority and lived in such a way to prove that love. Paul thereby serves as an example that Christians should follow.

HOW CAN WE HAVE THE PEACE OF GOD?

Right Thinking:- Phil 4:8; Isa 26:3; 2 Pet 3:16-18;

Right Doing:- Phil 4:9; Psa 119:165; Isa 48:18; John 14:23;

Right Attitude:- learning contentment, trusting, loving, depending on God's provisions. Phil 4:10; Mark 12:29-31;

We need to learn to trust in God and not in ourselves and our own abilities.

We need to learn how not to live in the past, and not to waste our time worrying about the things we cannot change.

We need to learn how to stop ourselves constantly indulging in self pity.



We need to seek to eliminate Suspicion and resentment.

We need to cultivate Love. Joy, compassion, good humour and loyalty.

We need to be realistic in our expectations of others and our expectation of ourselves.

HOW CAN WE HAVE THE PEACE:-

With God

Hear Him, Believe Him and Obey Him.
Matt 28:19-20; Acts 2:38;
1Pet 3:21;

With Others

First be reconciled to God then pursue peace with others.
1 Pet 3:8-12;

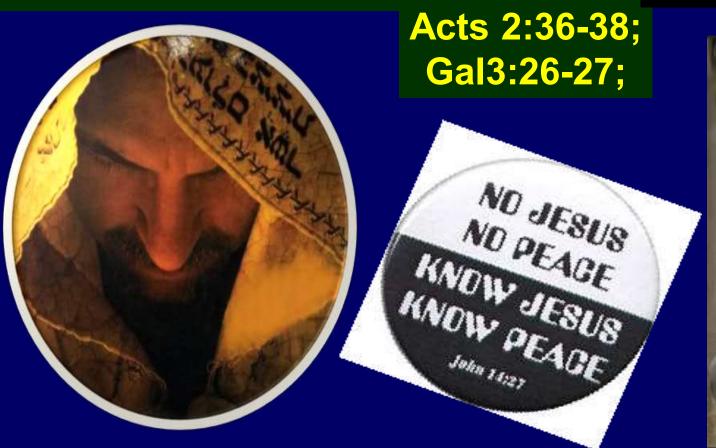
With Self

Walk in the Spirit. Rom 8:1; Gal 5:16;

THE PEACE OF GOD:-

KNOW JESUS – KNOW PEACE.

NO JESUS NO PEACE





HOW CAN WE LIVE IN PEACE:-

Slow down, live Simply, Live within your means.

Value the things that really matter.

Truly put God first:everything else will fall into place.

THE PEACE OF GOD WILL ENABLE YOU TO:-

Get beyond the regrets and guilt of the past.

Manage the anxiety of the present.

Overcome the fear of the future.

Phil 4:10; "How grateful I am, and how I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again. I know you have always been concerned for me, but for a while you didn't have the opportunity to help me."

This thought is closely associated with Phil 2:30; where Paul commends Epaphroditus for bringing the much needed monetary relief to Paul.

Paul states, "because for the work of Christ He came near to death, hazarding his life to supply that which was lacking in your service toward me."

Paul, as an evangelists, had needs that were to be met by other brethren if the work of evangelizing was to continue.

The apostle now explains that he understands the "lacking in service" on the part of the Philippians was not due to any uncaring spirit but rather they "lacked opportunity."

Phil 4:10; "How grateful I am, and how I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again. I know you have always been concerned for me, but for a while you didn't have the opportunity to help me."

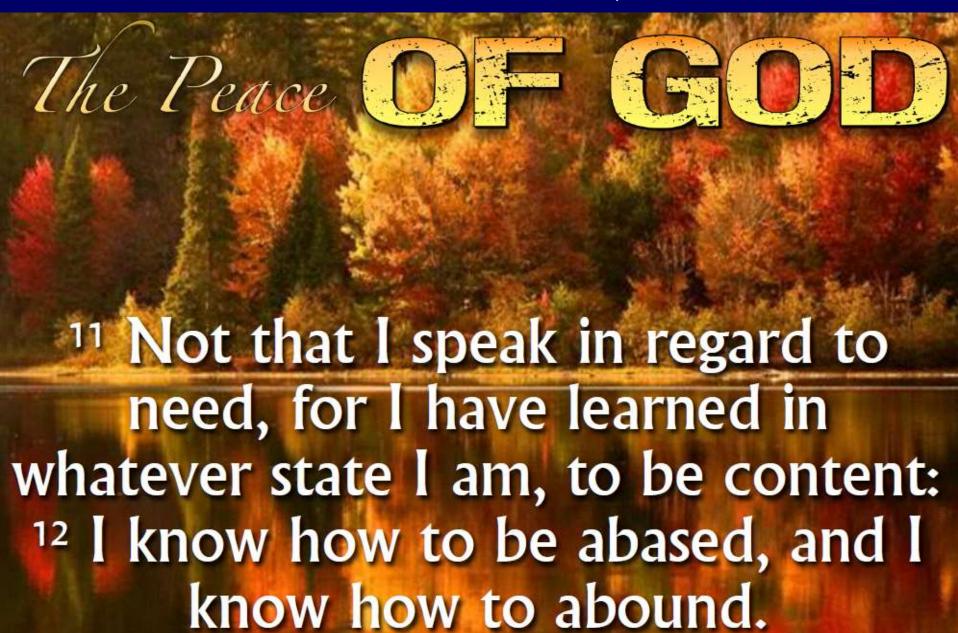
Apparently the Philippians would have sent relief to Paul sooner; however, they may not have had the funds or a messenger to send the funds to Paul.

Here, Paul is careful to let them know that he understands this.

Receiving funds for the work of an evangelist was a touchy subject in these early days of the church as it is in many congregations today. Some of the Corinthian brethren had accused Paul of preaching only for money. (2 Cor 11:7-10;)

Others claimed Paul was trying to scam the brotherhood for funds when he set out to collect monies for the needy saints in Jerusalem (2 Cor 12:16-18;)
This may have been a general idea that Paul had to continually fight throughout Macedonia. (I Thess 2:2:5;)

Phil 4:11; "Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content."



Phil 4:11; "Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content."

The word "Need" or "want" is the exact same word that was found at Philippians 2:30; translated:"lacking" and defined there as a "deficiency."

This seems difficult to interpret. Paul has commended the Philippians for meeting an apparent need. (Phil 2:30; 4:10;) yet now states that he does not say these things because of any deficiency, want, or need on his part.

The interpretation seems likely that Paul is saying that he does have needs; however, it is not having the needs themselves met that gives him contentment in life.

His joy comes in knowing that brethren truly did care for him. (Phil 4:10;) Paul's "contentment" came not in the monetary gift but in the knowledge that heaven was his if he would but meet God's standards. (Phil 3:1, 20-21; 4:1-5;)

Phil 4:11; "Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content."

Man cannot experience true joy without "learning."
Paul had "learned" how to be content even
though he faced intense persecution in his life.

When we study God's word we find that hardships and afflictions are part of the path to heaven then we will gladly accept them with contentment. (Acts 14:22;)

When our spiritual mind views true citizenship existing in heaven then the things of this life will fall into different categories in our mind. (Phil 3:20;)

We will not view hardships with such a state of anxiety, rather our mind will have the bend that it really doesn't matter and it will not last forever.

Phil 4:12; "I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything.

I have learned the secret of living in every situation,
whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little."

"I know how to be abased." To be "abased" (tapeinoo) = "to lower... metaph.: to lessen... to disparage... to humble, abase... in moral sense, to make lowly, to humble... to humble oneself"

Paul's point is that from one spectrum to the next he continues to be content. It doesn't matter if Paul is looked at by others as nothing because of what he is teaching or what he has, he is content in times of being "abased."

Neither does it really matter to Paul if he has more than he needs in relation to good and descent treatment of others.

The reason Paul can approach life with such a mind is that he is not emotionally attached to the world but rather emotionally, physically, and spiritually attached to Jesus Christ. Paul has LEARNED to be this way.

Phil 4:12; "I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything.

I have learned the secret of living in every situation,
whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little."

Not only did it not really matter to Paul whether he was treated scornfully or loved by men But it also did not matter to him if he was hungry or filled with food.

Paul was not physically attached to this world.
When you and I detach ourselves,
to a certain degree, from the cares of this world
we too can abound in times of want.

Phil 4:13; "For I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need."

Paul says based on his trusting Christ, he could Do all things through Christ who strengthens him.

This is a terribly abused passage, and does not have the general application that so many Christians give it.

Paul did not mean that he had the ability to leap across the isthmus of Corinth, or that he could fly to Ephesus, or swim to Caesarea.

The statement, like all scripture statements, must be seen in its context if one is to learn the truth of what is being said.

Phil 4:13; "For I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need."

What is Paul speaking about?

He is speaking about adjusting, without resentment to the ever changing conditions of his life.

It is with regard to having a sufficient amount of this world's goods, and not having a sufficient amount of this world's goods that Paul could do all things through Christ who strengthened him.

He could be full, well clothed, and well housed through Christ, and enjoy this not worrying about tomorrow.

(See: Matthew 6:25-34;)

Yet also through Christ who strengthened him he could suffer cold, hunger, shipwreck, Insufficient housing, and all these other things, And never feel resentment toward his Lord.

Phil 4:13; "For I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need."

Paul had earlier learned that it is through facing weaknesses in life that one grows in the strength of Christ. (2 Cor 12:7-10;)

When my faith has attained a level that my true and earnest belief is that heaven is my home then I will not be affected by the hardships of this life.

The more wicked men may afflict me the greater in the strength of Christ I will be because I know that He will save me in the end. (Exodus 1:12; 2 Cor 11:21-30;)

Phil 4:13; "For I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need."

Jesus had saved the soul of Paul, forgiven him of all his sins.

Paul did not expect the Lord to provide him with every luxury of life. Having food and clothing he was content, for contentment with godliness is great gain.

That is what he taught, and that is the way He lived. Let us learn the lesson that he learned.

Remember whether we live in abundance or privation, we can do it through Christ who strengthens us. All glory to Christ! (See 1 Timothy 6:6-8;)



Philippians Chapter 4 An Example of Basic Christian Beliefs.

We believe the Bible to be the only infallible, inspired, authoritative Word of God. As such it is our final authority for all matters of faith and Christian practice. (2 Tim 3:14-16;)

We believe that there is one God eternally existing in three persons- Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

He is the Creator of all things.

(Gen 1:1; John 1:1; Matt 3:16-17; 2 Cor 13:14;)

We believe in Jesus Christ, God in human flesh, who came to this world to die for our sins and who was bodily raised from the dead. (1 Corinthians 15:1-8;)

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the Living God, who draws people to Christ and who lives in every person who has received Christ.

(John 16:8-9; Acts 2:38; Ephesians 1:13-14;)

We believe that man, created by God, willfully sinned and as a result is lost and without hope apart from accepting and receiving Jesus Christ as Saviour. (Romans 3:23;6:23; Acts 4:12;)

We believe that salvation (forgiveness of sins) is available by the grace of God through the blood of Jesus Christ.

This free gift of forgiveness is offered to all who receive Christ as Lord and Saviour.

(Ephesians 2:8-9; Colossians 2:6; John 3:16;)

We believe the Bible clearly teaches the way to receive Christ is to Hear about Gods grace, and the gospel (good news) that God sent His Son to die on our behalf and that Jesus was resurrected from the dead. (Rom 10:17; John 3:16; Rom 1:1-5; 1 Cor 15:1-8;)

We then need to believe in Jesus as God's Son and Saviour of the world, repent of personal sin, confess Christ publicly, and be baptized. (John 8:24; Luke 24:47; Rom10:9; Acts 2:36-38; Matt 28:19-20; Mark 16:16;)

We believe that through our obedient faith, at our Baptism the grace of God through the blood of Jesus washes away our sins. (Matt 28:19-20; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:36-38;)

We believe that full immersion under water is the prescribed mode of baptism as indicated by Jesus' own example and command, best depicts our union in His death, burial, and resurrection.

(Mark 1:9-10; Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:4;)

We believe that the called out by God who have responded to the gospel is the body, the family, the kingdom, the bride of Christ on earth, founded on the day of Pentecost, consisting of all Christians everywhere. (Matthew 16:13-18;)

We believe that death seals the eternity of each person. (Hebrews 9:27;)
Those who are forgiven will spend eternity with God in heaven, those not forgiven will be eternally separated from God in hell.
(John 5:28-29; Dan 12:2; 2 Cor 4:14; Acts 17:31;)

Study on the Book of Philippians 4:1-13;

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Next in the series:- Phil 4:14-30;