

CHAPTERS IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 4 JUNE 2019
Theme of the Chapter: Governing the Mind

- I. THE PHILIPPIANS COULD GOVERN THEIR MINDS BY STANDING “STEADFAST IN THE LORD”.
- A. Paul urges believers to stand “steadfast” in lieu of the Lord’s return mentioned in chapter 3 vs. 1
 - 1. “Steadfast” is *steko* – **to remain in a fixed position**. 1st Thess. 3:8 (“*Steadfastness in the Lord*” is the key to true life) 2 Thes. 2:15; (Holding to doctrines is byproduct of remaining “steadfast”); Gal. 5:1 (Believers are to hold steadfast to the liberty in Christ)
 - 2. “*In the Lord*” focuses upon one’s submission to Him by living in their position, thereby allowing the Spirit to produce the things He desires through them. cf. Rom. 16:12; 1 Co. 1:31; 4:17
 - B. “The same mind” is the Greek phrase *to auto fronein* -- to reflectively think upon the same thing. Vs. 2 cf. Rom. 15:5; Phil. 3:16
 - C. Paul asked those who constituted the Church at Philippi to pray with him concerning those who laboured with him. vs. 3
 - 1. “*Intreat*” is the word *erotao* **to ask someone something ask an equal**. cf. 2 John 1:5 Believers can find unity in the Lord. vs. 2
 - 2. Paul asked as an equal as one who is bound together with the Philippians
 - a) “*Help*” is *sullambano* – **the word is used in other places to denote conception; the bringing together of two things**. cf. Ja. 1:14
 - b) “*The Book of Life*” is that book that contains the names of all elect. cf. Rev. 20:14-15; 13:8; 17:8
- II. PAUL ASSERTED THAT THE PHILIPPIANS COULD GOVERN THEIR MINDS BY REJOICING IN THEIR POSITION IN THE LORD.
- A. The believer today can “rejoice” in the Lord. Phil. 4:4
 - 1. The word “rejoice” (pres. Act. imp.-- 9 times in the New Testament) in the epistles takes on the effects of **one appreciating the favour freely done by God, without claim or expectation of return** -- Richard Trench Synonyms of the New Testament cf. Matt. 5:12; Matt. 28:9; Phil. 2:18; 3:1
 - 2. “*Rejoice*” in Scripture to denote a response for a benefit received from God – used most often in suffering. cf. Matt. 5:12; Lk. 10; 1 Pet. 4:13
 - 3. Twice in Scripture the believer is told to “rejoice” always –at all times. cf. 1 Thess. 5:16

- B. Paul exhorts the Philippians to let their “moderation” be made known to all men because the Lord is near. Vs. 5
1. “*Moderation*” is *epieikes*–
 - a) **“Reasonableness in judging; a humble, patient steadfastness, which is able to submit to injustice, disgrace, and maltreatment without hatred and malice, trusting in God in spite of all of it.” -- Richard Trench**
 - b) **Not being unduly rigorous, being satisfied with less than one’s due; forbearance; that which is the opposite of being quarrelsome or contentious.** cf. Tit. 3:2; 1 Pet. 2:18
 2. “Be made known” (aor. Pass. imper. Of *ginosko*) -- the use of the passive emphasizes that someone is seeing moderation in activity.
 3. “*The Lord is at hand*” emphasizes the imminent return of the Lord.
- C. Paul exhorted the Philippians to stop being “*careful*” (anxious)for anything.
1. “Careful” is the word *merimnao* (pres. Act. imper. With the negative notes something already in progress) -- **to have an anxious concern, based on apprehension about possible danger or misfortune - to be worried about a thing.**
 - a) “Careful” is used in a bad sense in Scripture. Phil. 4:6
 - b) “Careful” is associated with the physical life in Scripture. cf. Lk. 8:14; Matt. 6:25, 28, 34; Lk. 12:22
 - c) Men can be “careful” for how to respond in crisis situations. Matt. 10:19; Lk. 12:11
 - d) “Careful” is used in a good sense in Scripture. Phil. 2:20; 1Co. 12:25
 2. The believer is not to be “anxious” for “nothing” – **not one thing.**cf. Acts 28:18
- D. The contrast of being “*careful*” is the peace of God which is accessed by communication with God. Phil. 4:6
1. The word “*but*” is an adversative particle that denotes the contrast of being careful – “**but on the contrary**”.
 2. “*In everything*” -- denotes **situations; circumstances.** cf. 1 Thess. 5:18; Phil. 4:12
 3. Paul list several forms of communication with God that are important to the believer.
 - a) In prayer – worship.
 - b) Supplication – a cry for help.
 - c) Thanksgiving (with – after) – **expression of appreciation to God for a gift given.**

