

Philippians Bible Study - Lesson 9 - **Philippians 4:1-9**

November 10, 2024

Philippians 4:1-3

1. The only crown or reward that Paul found joy in, was the very souls that he had been a part of gathering into eternal life.
2. This book was written to a real congregation with real people. We don't know what exactly Euodia and Syntyche were disagreeing on, but perhaps we are getting an image as to why Paul has been so clear about the importance of unity within the church.
 - a. Take a silent moment and consider anyone of your brothers or sisters in Christ where a disagreement has caused a rift between you. Pray for reconciliation in the Lord.
3. 4:3 is used throughout the Article on Election in the Solid Declaration, saying that people "should not concern or torture themselves with thoughts about the secret counsel of God - whether they are chosen and preordained for eternal life - with which the accursed Satan is wont to attack and trouble upright hearts. Rather, they should listen to Christ who is the "Book of Life" and the book of God's eternal election for all God's children to eternal life."¹

Philippians 4:4-7

4. Luther's Small Catechism explanation of the 1st commandment uses 4:5-6 as a support for the answer to the question: "*What does it mean to trust in God above all things?* It means that we rely on God to take care of us and to keep all of His promises to us."²
 - a. "The Lord is at hand..." (4:5b) - What does that mean for today?
 - i. Consider Revelation 1:3 & 22:10-11
 - b. Since the "Lord is at hand; do not be anxious," pray and give thanks, "and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
5. Later in the explanation, 4:6 is used to explain one of the ways that we thank and praise God. – "I thank and praise God as I worship with fellow believers and within my daily routines."³
 - a. The two are not mutually exclusive, we are to thank and praise God in worship and prayer with others and on our own.
6. How do you handle the concerns of life? Is prayer to God a first or last option?
7. Paul encourages us to cast our anxieties upon the Lord in prayer. What is true about God that encourages believers to pray? Why should we add thanksgiving to our supplication?

Philippians 4:8-9

8. There is the old phrase, "garbage in, garbage out." What we focus on and fill our lives with will have an effect on us. Paul's command to keep this list of godly virtues is one of great care for his brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - a. Consider what you might add or remove from your life, that you might think about what is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent or worthy of praise.

¹ FC SD XI 70.

² Luther's Small Catechism (LSC), 2017, question 30.

³ LSC, 2017, question 143.