



A Study of Galatians, Ephesians, **Philippians**, Colossians

Review of Chapter 3:

(V 4-7) Paul had reason to boast about his works in life, yet he didn't. What did he rely on, what did he boast about? **He boasted only in his new life in Christ. Christ loved him and forgave him.**

✦ though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

⁷ But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

(V14) Paul says, "we press on towards the goal." What does that mean for this life? What about the next?

✦ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. **We continue to live this life, not taking heaven for granted, instead we continue to thank God by living a God-pleasing life**

(V 16) What does Paul encourage the Philippians and us to do?

✦ Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

Live that life of thanks for what we already have. Big gifts, big thanks

Chapter 4: Read verses 1-3

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!

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.

1. What can we say that is good about Euodia and Syntyche? What was the problem now?

They had both been fellow workers in the kingdom, they had partnered with Paul in some way, they did not agree on something. There was a disagreement that had gotten them at odds with one another

2. In moments like these, what should we remember about our brother or sister in Christ? How will that help? **They too are forgiven children of God – they have the same promises and blessings as we do – they will be in heaven too.**

3. Does Paul lay blame? What does he encourage equally between the two women?
No, he simply asks them to settle the difference

4. How does Paul dealing with situation help us deal with troubling situations?
Urge settling the situation, confront the situation, do not let it grow and fester

Read verses 4-9

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.

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.

4. Instead of anger and bitterness, what does Paul encourage in all situations? List some of those phrases to show how behavior.

1. **Rejoicing**

2. **Gentleness**

3. **Do not be anxious**

4. **Prayer, Thanksgiving**

5. We often hear phrases like garbage in, garbage out. What is the guidance in verse 8,9?
Set your hearts and minds on things that are upright, good and God-pleasing. This will help us then to put them into practice

6. How can and should the peace of God direct our lives in all situations?
Direct us not to pick fights, will help us leave things in God's hands for his direction and his purpose

7. What are ways that we can overcome our own hurt feelings, our own sinful nature, when we feel that we have been wronged? **Pray, Bible Study to see that God is in control, not only talk about forgiveness, practice it, move on with life doing something else**

8. What would Paul encourage, especially if it is a problem with another believer?
Going and working that out between the two of you

Read verses 10-13

¹⁰I 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. ¹¹I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹²I 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. ¹³I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

9. Paul says thank you to the Philippians. What is he thankful for? (think back to chapter 1)
Although they did not have a special gift to give to, or a special occasion to give about, they continued to support Paul and his ministry either through Epp, through their prayers, and offerings

10. What do we forget to do when things are going well?

Pray, Serve, Offer

11. What are we quick to do when things are not going so well?

Blame, Point fingers, Accuse, Second Guess

12. What is the key to being content in this life with what we have?

Looking to the Lord, realizing everything is from him and he deserves the glory. The Lord's got this

13. What is often the case when we are not content?

We are worries, scared because we just don't see God at work, we don't see his hand in this

Read verses 14-20

¹⁴Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. ¹⁵Moreover, 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; ¹⁶for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need. ¹⁷Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. ¹⁸I 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. ¹⁹And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

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

14. Who were the Philippians really giving to?

God and his work

15. What Old Testament picture of the Temple was Paul referring to when he talks about their gift being a fragrant offering and an acceptable sacrifice?

The smoke of the incense that was so sweet smelling that rose to heaven. This was a symbol of the acceptable pleasing sacrifices to God.

16. If we only think about our offerings to church as another bill to pay, what happens with that offering? **We struggle to pay with it like we struggle with the others, we are unhappy giving to the Lord, we don't plan and aren't proportional in our giving. It becomes another obligation**

17. What can happen when we think of these gifts as fragrant offerings and acceptable sacrifices to the Lord, deeply pleasing to God?

We can begin to give thankfully and freely to God realizing that he is in control

18. To whose glory is the Philippians' gift and Paul's service?

God's glory

19. What is our motivation when we give gifts? Is it to feel good, is it to get more blessings from God, is it to give to a church body, a person, a building? What is our motivation?

To thank God for what he has done, to take part in the work that our God has given to us while we are on this earth.

Read verses 21-23

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.

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

20. How could the endings of Paul's letters with greetings serve to build up the congregation?

You are included in this grace of God and in the work we are doing together. Reminding them of their faithful friends and neighbors/

21. Who could the members of Caesar's household be?

It could be Caesar and his family

22. There is joy in Christ in this letter. The Philippians had shared their blessings with Paul. They had supported the work of Paul. What motivated the people to live this way and so graciously to support Paul's work? **Their love and thanks to Jesus for what he had done.**

23. What will living in that grace and peace of our Savior motivate us to do?

Live in that same love and thankfulness to Jesus.

24. What stops us from giving generously and freely of our blessings?

Ourselves