



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?

✦ 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.

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

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

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?

2. In moments like these, what should we remember about our brother or sister in Christ? How will that help?

3. Does Paul lay blame? What does he encourage equally between the two women?
4. How does Paul dealing with situation help us deal with troubling situations?

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.

2.

3.

4.

5. We often hear phrases like garbage in, garbage out. What is the guidance in verse 8,9?

6. How can and should the peace of God direct our lives in all situations?

7. What are ways that we can overcome our own hurt feelings, our own sinful nature, when we feel that we have been wronged?

8. What would Paul encourage, especially if it is a problem with another believer?

Read verses 10-13

¹⁰ I 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. ¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² I 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. ¹³ I 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)
10. What do we forget to do when things are going well?
11. What are we quick to do when things are not going so well?
12. What is the key to being content in this life with what we have?
13. What is often the case when we are not content?

Read verses 14-20

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

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

14. Who were the Philippians really giving to?
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?
16. If we only think about our offerings to church as another bill to pay, what happens with that offering?
17. What can happen when we think of these gifts as fragrant offerings and acceptable sacrifices to the Lord, deeply pleasing to God?
18. To whose glory is the Philippians' gift and Paul's service?
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?

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?

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

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?

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

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