

**Philippians 4:1-9 (The Peace Chapter)**  
**August 10, 2008**

Summary of Comments from Barclay:

Introduction from Mike: Paul was born as a [pharisee](#) and converted to a [sadducee](#) to marry a priest's daughter. That didn't turn out. Paul had a fondness for the church in Philippi. Timothy was with Paul, probably not under house arrest like Paul, but had close contact.

Verse 1 - greeting of personal affection for the church at Philippi - they were the crown of Paul's toils for Christ

Love and long for those he brought to Christ

Urged them to be steadfast in the Lord (note - stated 3 times in first 4 verses)

(steadfast - like soldiers standing firm in battle)

Only with Jesus can we resist temptation

Verses 2&3 - pleading for unity in Christ (there can be no unity unless in Christ)

Charged to help others

**Must love Christ to love one another**

Verses 4-5 - rejoice in the Lord, always

Joy - nothing to do with material things or with our outward circumstances

Happiness depends upon the right person and their presence - Jesus is the ultimate right person

Let your gentleness be evident to all - justice and mercy

The Lord is near

Verses 6-7 - Very important scripture

Take everything to God in prayer

Pray for ourselves, the present, forgiveness for the past, and help and guidance in the future, for others, and things we need in the present

Give thanks in everything

gratitude

Remember -

The Love of God

The Wisdom of God

The Peace of God

The Peace of God will guard your hearts and minds in Jesus Christ

Verses 8-9 - Setting the mind on right things

Thinking about what is:

True (true teaching of God)

Nobel (honorable, reverent, nobly serious, dignity of holiness, just)

Right

Pure

Lovely (kindness, sympathy, patience, feeling of lover)

Admirable

Excellent

Praise worthy

(Thoughts that can stand the scrutiny of God)

Put into practice whatever has been learned, received, heard or seen from Paul.

The God of Peace will be with you

Peace leads to right relationships

Only by the grace of God that we enter into a right relationship with God and others.

The God of Hope will keep us from despair

The God of Patience will encourage, comfort, console and strengthen

Study Questions:

1. What were Paul's circumstances when he wrote this chapter?
2. How does conflict impact Christ's Church?
3. How does worry affect our lives?  
*From Nancy Greer in class: Worry is the sin of distrusting the plans & promises of God*
4. Should Christians have worries?
5. Does worry allow Satan to enter our lives and distract us from our focus on God?

*Notes from class: Worry is paralyzing, narcissistic*

Philippians 4: 10-23 (The Peace Chapter)  
August 17, 2008

Summary of Comments from Barclay:

Verses 10-13 - Rejoicing for the concern by other Christians for you/family/friends (The secret of true contentment)

Paul expresses gratitude for the generosity of the gift

Paul had learned the gift of contentment

- in need

- in plenty

The Providence of God (Genesis 45:5, 50:20) is the secret of being content in any and every situation, knowing that He will provide and sustain us.

Verse 13: **“I can do everything through him who gives me strength”**

This passage was in contrast to the [Greek Stoic](#) also [here](#). They sought to: Eliminate all desires (love)

Eliminate all emotion (caring)

These were done by a deliberate act of will (The will of God)

Paul - contentment is a divine gift (from peace and confidence)

Note - he has learned to be content through life experiences

Christ can cope with anything (John 15:1-8)

We are not victims of circumstance

The most important part of Christian life is what God sees (our faith, thoughts, and actions)

Verses 14-20 Generosity as a Christian (The value of the Gift)

The partnership of giving between the Church at Phillipi and Paul annoyed the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 11: 7-12)

Generosity produces gladness and joy

It is a sacrifice to God

The joy was not in what the gift did for Paul, but what the gift did for the Phillipians.

It was a sacrifice which opens the wealth of God to those who love him and love their neighbors.

Those who give generously make themselves richer. Generosity is:

1.A budding tree

2.An investment

3.A sacrifice

Verses 21-23: Ending with a greeting

Greetings from Caesar's Household was a phrase for the imperial civil service who were in charge of the day to day operations of the Roman (Evil) Empire. (Christ was the victor and Paul saw it - imagine his joy)

Christianity had penetrated the center of the Roman government by 60-70AD. The triumph of Christ was at hand, but was not seen for another 300 years with the Emperor Constantine.

Paul sent the Philippians a gift - his blessing.

What greater gift can be given but to remember others in our prayers. We have given to us:

The Providence of God  
The Power of God  
The Promises of God

Study Questions:

1. What is contentment?
2. How do we struggle trying to obtain contentment?
3. What is the difference between being complacent and content?
4. What is God's Providence or "providing-ness"?
5. How does prosperity versus adversity impact our ability to see God's Providence and our God given contentment?
6. What does it mean, "The most important part of Christian life is the part that only God sees"?
7. How can our contentment be a witness to the lost?