

The Letter to the Saints at Philippi—Part 2

Southside church of Christ, Huntsville

Reading Assignment—Philippians 3-4

Introduction

Paul opens chapter 3 talking about those who had confidence in the Old Law. Paul, having been one of those before, had much to lose when he obeyed Christ. However, he happily gave up all those things for the cause of Christ. Instead of the things of the flesh, he now seeks after the knowledge of Christ. The knowledge of Christ is the most profitable possession a person can obtain. Even still, his time of victory had not yet come. While still living, he was determined to keep pressing on and enjoying the benefits of being in the body. He ends the chapter with a warning about backsliding.

In chapter 4 Paul begins by reminding the brethren to stand fast and be unified. All these things that seem so important now will be done away with. In the end we look to heaven wherein is found our true fellowship. Paul gives some practical advice for how to keep your mind on spiritual things in Philippians 4:4-8. Having a joyful heart that is always thankful will keep us aware of how God cares for us. We must not worry about anything because God will listen when we pray. When we do these things God will bless us with the peace that goes beyond all understanding. Having this peace will protect our hearts and minds from the stress of life in the world. He finishes this section with some guidance on what to think about.

Paul finishes the book with by following his own advice. He once again expresses his thankfulness and joy in the Philippian brethren. He recounts how generous and loving they have been. Even though they have given much, he reminds them in closing that God will take care of them. Even today we may have anxiety about being generous or giving back to God. We must remember that God will not abandon us in our well-doing. He will repay us with far more than we sacrificed.

Instructions

While reading chapters 3 and 4, be sure to identify the major and minor themes as well as the major arguments used to support the themes.

Chapter 3

Major Theme:

Major Argument:

Chapter 4

Major Theme:

Major Argument:

Minor Themes:

Minor Themes:

Questions

1. How does Paul describe our body? Christ's body? (Ph. 3:21)

2. When he became a Christian, Paul gave up the righteousness of what?

3. Describe the two 'walks' in chapter 3. (Ph. 3:16-18)

4. How does Paul address Euodias and Syntyche?

5. How can we keep the God of peace with us?

6. How should we behave before the world? (Ph. 4:5)

True or False—Be sure to provide scripture for your answer.

T or F—Clement was a true yokefellow of Paul.

T or F—Paul was looking forward to the resurrection of the dead.

T or F—Paul had no accomplishments in the flesh.

T or F—The enemies of the cross mind earthly things.

T or F—The Philippians had sent one gift to Paul.

Thought Questions

1. Explain in your own words what it is to “walk by the same rule” and “mind the same thing.” (Ph. 3:16)

2. What are some ways we can learn and grow in any situation? (Ph. 4:12)

3. What is the ‘fruit’ in Philippians 4:17?