

A Study of the Epistles of Paul (NT Survey Lesson 175--Philippians 4)

Introduction: Paul continues to emphasize the joy we may have in Christ. But this time he adds a significant word, "Rejoice in the Lord always". In this chapter Paul discusses the responses to life that will preserve our joy from day to day.

Lesson aim: To encourage all of us to rejoice always.

An exhortation to harmony in the Lord--Phil. 4:1-3

1. What did Paul urge the Philippians to do in v. 1? What were the Philippians to Paul?
2. What exhortation did Paul give to two of the Philippian women? What had these women done for Paul?
3. They were among who else as fellow-workers with Paul? Where were the names of Paul's fellow-workers written?

How to rejoice in the Lord always--Phil. 4:4-9

1. How does the exhortation to rejoice in v. 4 differ from the other appeals to rejoice found in Philippians? Is it possible to rejoice always?
2. What did Paul say should be known by all men?
3. Whose nearness helps us keep our joy?
4. How should Christians handle the problem of anxiety or worry? What promise does God make to those who bring their cares to him?
5. Upon what things should Christians let their minds dwell?
6. Whose example did Paul urge the Philippians to follow?

The joy of spiritual fellowship--Phil. 4:10-20

1. What recent event had once again made Paul rejoice in the Philippians? Why had the Philippians not sent a gift to Paul for some time?
2. Did Paul have both the experiences of having abundance and suffering need? What was his attitude toward both? Who was the source of Paul's strength?
3. How had the Philippians indicated their concern for Paul in the past? Was Philippi a "sponsoring" church through which other churches sent money to Paul, or did they alone send support to him at the time Paul is discussing?
4. Paul did not seek the gift from the Philippians, but what? What did Paul mean by this?
5. How did Paul say God viewed their gifts of support? What did he promise God would supply for the Philippians?

Closing greetings--Phil. 4:21-23