

PHILIPPIANS 4:2-9

Review your memory verses: Philippians 1:6, 2:3-11, and the verse of your choice from 3:12-4:1.

Memorize Philippians 4:6-7.

Read Philippians 4:2-9. Do this 5 times, thoughtfully and prayerfully.

1. What is the problem Paul addresses in verse 2?

2. In verses 2 and 3 we see a two-pronged solution asked for. What are the two steps Paul desires in doing away with this problem?

3. Read again 4:1-3, looking as you go for indications of Paul's attitude toward and regard for these women. (Tradition has it that Clement was to become the Bishop of Rome. Remember, too, the history of the Philippian church from Acts 16.)

4. What does your answer to question 3 show you about:
 - a. God's attitude toward you when you fail?

 - b. your *proper* attitude toward others when they fail?

 - c. the value you as a Christian woman can have in the cause of the gospel?

Read Philippians 4:4-6.

5. What would you have to be convinced of about the Lord in order to carry out the command in verse 4? (The context of the surrounding chapters and verses should help you.)

6. The word "always" is an integral part of verse 4. *When* do *you* have the hardest time with this command?

7. Define *forbearing* (NASB) or *gentleness* (NIV).

8. Why would the fact that the Lord is near (verse 5) motivate you to be forbearing or gentle with all?

9. Put verse 5 in your own words.

10. a. What does it mean to be anxious (verse 6)?

b. What are some concerns that can cause you anxiety?

11. What is the antidote to being anxious (verse 6)?

12. What attitude are you conveying when you take your requests to God?
13. What does thanksgiving have to do with it? (Thanksgiving is *not* a formality we merely plug into our prayer but a vital heart-attitude.)
14. Verse 7 gives the result of turning to God with relationships or circumstances that otherwise would get us uptight or hassled. It speaks of the *peace of God*. What are we told about it?

Read Philippians 4:8-9.

15. What two arenas of life are called into obedience in these verses?
16. a. List *each* type of thinking that our minds are to dwell on and explain.

b. How does a follower of Christ discern what is “right” or “pure” or “excellent?”
17. Show how the above principle works by giving *an illustration of a proper thinking* for each example below which you might encounter:
 - a. an incompetent store clerk
 - b. a down economy
 - c. an interruption in *your* plans
 - d. an unfaithful friend

e. a religious hypocrite

f. other

18. What do you observe that is promised to you regarding peace in verses 7 and 9?

19. Please summarize the teaching of Philippians 4:2-9. (You could use the ideas - Pray, Ponder, Practice.)

20. This passage has:

a. encouraged me because

b. challenged me to

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