

Philippians 4 - A Life Worth Imitating

He starts in Php 4:1 with “Therefore, my brothers...” → What is the “therefore” in v 4:1 there for?

- Php 3:17-21 ESV Brothers, join in **imitating** me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the **example** you have in us. 18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, **walk as enemies** of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with **minds set on earthly things**. 20 But our **citizenship is in heaven**, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.
 - **Paul is a citizen of heaven → a life worth imitating (example or enemy)**
 - **Mind set on earthly things vs Citizenship in heaven (a call to embrace kingdom mindset)**
 - **With a kingdom mindset we can become a life worth imitating**

A life worth imitating → in how we care for PEOPLE

Php 4:1-23 ESV Therefore, **my brothers**, whom I **love** and **long for**, my **joy** and **crown**, stand firm thus in the Lord, **my beloved**. 2 I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. 3 Yes, I ask you also, **true companion**, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of **my fellow workers**, whose names are in the book of life.

- **Their Value** → Brother, Loved, longed for. joy & crown, Beloved, true companion, fellow workers
- **Their relationships** - be intentional pursuing unity, peace and cooperation
- **Their Destiny** “in or out of the book of life” - Paul he would be cut off -- if Israel could be saved

A life worth imitating → to live knowing THE LORD IS NEAR (THE PEACE OF GOD WILL GUARD...)

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. **The Lord is at hand**; 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your **requests** be made known to God. 7 And **the peace of God**, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- **He is in prison** -- (rejoice, be gentle) **but remember ... the Lord is Near**
- **Result** --Don't be anxious FOR ANYTHING -- 2024 - 43% of U.S. adults more anxious than 2023
- **IN EVERYTHING** Prayer, supplication and thanksgiving - REQUEST → Peace of God will guard heart

A life worth imitating → one who inspires others to practice → GOD OF PEACE WILL BE WITH YOU

8 Finally, brothers, whatever is **true**, whatever is **honorable**, whatever is **just**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **commendable**, if there is any **excellence**, if there is **anything worthy of praise**, think about these things. 9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me--**practice these things**, and the God of peace will be with you.

- This is not about keeping a type of thought, but thoughts leading to **practice**- Be true, Be honorable etc
- It's as if he is saying THIS IS WHAT YOU HAVE Learned, received, heard and seen in me - now do
- **AND GOD of Peace will be with you** ... Joh 14:23 Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

A life worth imitating → secret of contentment (correct context of a famous scripture)

10 I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived **your concern for me**. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. 11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for **I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content**. 12 I know how to be brought **low**, and I know how to **abound**. In any and **every circumstance**, I have learned the **secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need**. 13 **I can do all things through him who strengthens me**.

- **SCRIPTURE IN CONTEXT - I can do all things through Him who strengthens me ???**

Paul points to their life worth imitating → extreme generosity → we can never out-give the LORD

14 Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. 15 And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. 16 Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. 17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit.

- **SLIDE** 18 I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, **having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.** 19 And **my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.** 20 To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. 21 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. 22 All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household. 23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.
- **SCRIPTURE IN CONTEXT - ??My God will supply your need ?? was said to a group of people who were living in extreme poverty, yet supplied the needs of others**

The grace of giving...Affliction + Joy + Extreme Poverty = Wealth of Generosity beyond their means

2Co 8:1-4 ESV We want you to know, brothers, about **the grace of God** that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, 2 for in a **severe test of affliction**, their **abundance of joy** and their **extreme poverty** have overflowed in a **wealth of generosity** on their part. 3 For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and **beyond their means**, of their own accord, 4 begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints--

Summary → Are you a life worth imitating

- 1) How I love and care for people they way Jesus does
- 2) How I acknowledge of the NEARNESS of God to → overcome anxiety
- 3) Living true and just and pure, while teaching others the same
- 4) Living a powerful life of contentment (whether in abundance or in need) - able to do all things through Him
- 5) Becoming a person of extreme generosity