



Learn Your Bible

Short Study 073: Philippians Study 8 Affection and Gratitude

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Read Philippians 4:10-23

Introduction: Paul's conclusion to this letter is full of his affection for the Philippian Christians and gratitude for their generosity in supporting him in his ministry.

vs 10, 14-18 Faithful Support. It looks as if the church in Philippi maintained their support of Paul when other churches had forgotten him. Can you see a link between intercession and practical support?

Sharing in Paul's distress (v14). The Greek (*thlipsis*) is the same word translated in the NKJV as *tribulation* when Jesus said "in the world you will have *tribulation*" (John 16:33). What was causing Paul distress (remember where he was (Phil 1:7).

What is the 'fruit' (result) of generosity (v 17)?

Who is pleased by generosity (apart from the recipient)? (v18)

v19 God's provision. '*According to His riches*' What do you think this means?

vs 11-13 Contentment. Far from moaning about his situation, Paul found contentment in whatever state he was in. How do you think he was able to do this?

Where did his strength to trust God and endure trials come from (v13)?

v20 Doxology. This is a Latin word meaning 'glory', usually giving glory to God in praise.

vs 21-23 Final Greetings.

Saints. Paul uses the word 39 times in his letters. It means 'holy ones'. Who is he referring to?

Those of Caesar's household' (v22). 'Household' can include servants as well as family. It looks as if some had become Christians. Do you think Paul had anything to do with this?

The Benediction (v23). Another Latin word, meaning 'blessing'. (*bene* - well + *dictio* - speaking).

CONCLUSION to this series

Philippians has only four chapters, but Chapters full of good practical teaching. It has been called 'The epistle of joy' and "The loveliest letter that Paul ever wrote". (Do you agree with these descriptions?) It is worth reading again and again. Moreso, it is worth taking to heart and putting its eternal truths into practice for joyful, victorious Christian living.

To think about: Are you able, like Paul, to find contentment in the midst of all circumstances or are you more inclined to dwell on their darker side?

To dig deeper: Read the letter again, pausing at anything on which you are unclear and seeking clarification from Bible helps, such as a concordance.