

troubles before God in prayer, this peace will stand guard at the door of our hearts and minds, preventing the cares of life and the heartaches of disappointment from overthrowing our lives and hope in Christ (v. 6; Is. 26:3-4,12; 37:1-7; Rom. 8:35-39; 1 Pet. 5:7). (3) If fear and anxiety return, prayer, supplication, and thanksgiving will once again put us under the peace of God that guards our hearts. Once more we will feel safe and rejoice in the Lord (v. 4).¹

4:8 WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE PURE. Believers must place their minds on those things which are true, pure, holy, righteous, etc. The consequence of placing our minds on unholy things of the world is that the joy, nearness, and peace of God are lost and our hearts are no longer guarded.¹
THE PHILIPPIAN'S CARE FOR PAUL

(Philippians 4:10-23)

1. What are some of the special factors that personally encouraged Paul in the ministry?
 (Philippians 4:11-13,19)_____

1. Full Life Study Bible, Notes, p. 1868, 1869.

FOURTH STUDY

PAUL'S INSTRUCTIONS

PERSONAL AND COOPERATE INSTRUCTIONS (Philippians 4:1-7)

In Philippians 4:1-3, Paul gives instructions concerning the actions of his fellow laborers in the Gospel. In this, he included their attitudes and care toward one another.

1. What are Paul's instructions in Philippians 4:1-3? _____

And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help

(3). *Synzygos*, **yokefellow**, has been interpreted as a proper name, and thus a play on words similar to *Onesimus* (serviceable) in Philemon 11. In any case, this **yokefellow**, whom some have fancied to be Silas, was to be a peacemaker (cf. Matt. 5:9). It is not known who **Clement** was, though Clement of Rome has been suggested. Since the women had **labored with** him and with Paul, he was well known to the congregation. **Book of life** was a Jewish phrase used sometimes to describe the roll of an army. Because these persons are members of the Lord's army and have done battle with Paul

against a common enemy, their names are in God's **book of life**--the roll of the redeemed. ¹

THE PROMISE OF GOD'S NEARNESS

(Philippians 4:4-8)

In Philippians 4:4-8, Paul gives the Believers a list of things to do. These are things they have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in Paul himself which will bring upon them the peace of God.

1. From Philippians 4:4-8, give a brief outline of Paul's exhortation to the believers.

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

(5) _____

(6) _____

4:4 REJOICE IN THE LORD. The believer must rejoice and strengthen himself by recalling to mind the Lord's grace, nearness, and promises. ²

4:5 THE LORD IS AT HAND. We must believe the Lord may come at any time. The N.T. per-

spective is that the return of Jesus is imminent (see Luke 12:35-40); therefore, we must be ready, working, and watching at all times (Mat. 24:36; 25:1-13; Rom. 13:12-14). ¹

4:6 BE CAREFUL FOR NOTHING. Paul instructs us not to be anxious or worried. The one essential cure for worry is prayer, for the following reasons. (1) Through prayer we renew our trust in the Lord's faithfulness by casting our anxieties and problems upon Him who cares for us (Mat. 6:25-34; I Pet. 5:7). (2) The peace of God comes to guard our hearts and minds as a result of our communion with Christ Jesus (vv. 6-7; Is. 26:3; Col. 3:15). (3) God strengthens us to do all things He desires of us (v. 13; 3:20; Eph. 3:16). (4) We receive mercy, grace, and help in time of need (Heb. 4:16). (5) We are assured that all things God allows to happen will work out for our good (v. 11; Rom. 8:28). ¹

4:7 PEACE OF GOD . . . SHALL KEEP YPUR HEARTS. When we call on God from hearts that sincerely endeavor to abide in His Word (John 15:7), then the peace of God will flood our troubled souls. (1) This peace is an inner tranquility mediated to us by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:15-16). It involves a firm conviction that Jesus is near and that God's love will be active in our lives for good (Rom. 8:28,32; cf. Is. 26:3). (2) When we lay our

1. Beacon Bible Commentary, Volume 9, p. 346,347.

2. Full Life Study Bible, Notes, p. 1868.

1. Full Life Study Bible, Notes p.1868.