

Paul's confidence that God will meet all the needs of the Philippians?

What does the generosity of the Philippian church say about where they have placed their confidence? Why?

Paul describes God's peace as that which "surpasses all understanding."

- What do you think Paul means by that?

Paul has suffered terribly, and is suffering in prison still. Yet he says "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

- What do you think he means by that?

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

Paul urges us to put our confidence in Christ not in the things of the world. How much do we actually do that? Does your faith in Christ truly impact the way in which you deal with your anxieties and concerns? Are you confident in God's provision for your life?

The letter to the Philippians calls all Christians to rejoice and put their confidence in Christ and not in the world. Let us pray that God will give us grace to do so, and so know his peace that "surpasses all understanding."

Copyright © Karl R B Jones, 2017
TBC011.01.04S

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



A Short Study of PHILIPPIANS 4:4-13, 18-20

In the fourth chapter of Paul's letter to the Philippians, Paul calls them again to rejoice in the Lord and set aside their worldly cares and anxieties, looking rather to God in Christ, who will meet all their needs.

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-13, 18-20

- 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.*
- 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.*
- 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.*
- 18 *... 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.*

OBSERVATION

In chapter three Paul had told how he had abandoned hope in the flesh, and put his confidence in Christ instead.

Mark the words 'rejoice' and 'rejoiced.'

- In what does Paul rejoice?
- In what does he urge the Philippians to rejoice?
- To what extent did Paul rejoice?
- At what times does Paul say the Philippians should rejoice?

Paul declared that "the Lord is at hand."

- What conclusions does he draw from this statement about the way the Philippians should live?
- How does Paul say the Philippians should deal with worldly concerns and anxieties?
- What will be the result?

In contrast to giving themselves over to think about their worldly concerns, what does Paul say the Philippians should think about? What adjectives does Paul use to describe "these things"?

Who does Paul, in this case, put to the Philippians as an example of someone who practices "these things"?

What was the immediate cause of Paul's rejoicing, i.e. apart from "in the Lord"? How does Paul think about his worldly needs?

INTERPRETATION

While Paul was in prison he was greatly encouraged by the kindness of Epaphroditus and the Philippian church.

- What do you think in the link between their kindness and