

The Book of Philippians
“Spiritual Stability – Part One”
9/04/2016 Sunday AM

Scripture Verses: Philippians 4:1-4, 1 Corinthians 1:10, 1 Peter 3:8

Sermon Notes

- Last week we spoke about Pressing On. We saw where we need to set our destination on things heavenward and not allow the things of this world to stop us or slow us down.
- This morning we are going to talk about Spiritual Stability as we enter the last chapter of Philippians.
- The church is under attack in the world, today and Christianity is becoming the most persecuted religion in the world.
- The church is being attacked from the outside by many forces like the government and other religions, but Satan also tries to attack the church from the inside.
- Because of the constant attacks the church in America has become very unstable, especially when it comes to spiritual maturity and discipleship.
- The church is spending more of its time trying to act like the world to be accepted, rather than helping people to grow in their faith and become mature Christians.
- The New Testament is filled with calls for the church to be spiritually mature (Acts 11:23, 14:22; 1 Corinthians 15:58, 16:13; Galatians 5:1; Colossians 2:5; 2 Peter 3:16-17).
- This is the theme of Philippians 4:1-9. We will take a look this morning at the first 4 verses.

Philippians 4:1-4

¹Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends! ²I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord.

³Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

- Always remember that when you see the word “Therefore” in the Bible, you ask “What is it therefore?”
- He had just spent an entire chapter on not having confidence in the flesh and the things of this world and to press on toward things that are Christlike and heavenward.
- The more we are like Christ and take our focus off of this world, the more spiritually stable we will become.
- The word that is translated “crown” here in v. 1 is not speaking of a golden royal crown, it is speaking of a wreath that is given to athletes when they win a game. The Greek word is *stephanos*.
- The Philippians have supported Paul greatly and he is immensely proud of how they have ministered for Christ, in that regard they are Paul’s “crown because they are who he set out for them to be.
- He then goes on to v. 2 and begins to address a problem in the Philippian church between two women, Euodia and Syntyche.
- We do not know a whole lot about what exactly was going on between these two women, but we know they did not agree on something.
- We also know that they were women of influence and had helped Paul in his ministry.
- He is advocating that they come together and stop their disagreement and he is calling the church of Philippi to come alongside them and help them as well.
- Paul gives the Philippian church 7 principles to help them remain spiritually stable and we will look at the first two of those principles this morning.

1. Promote Harmony among Members (vv. 2-3)

- As Paul addresses this issue between the two women in the church he exhorted them to “agree with each other in the Lord.” This can also be translated “be of the same mind.”

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- Many times already Paul has called this church to be “like minded.”
- It is immensely important for the church and all that make it up to be in harmony with one another.
- The type of attack that the Philippian church was experiencing here was one not from the outside, but from the inside.
- Satan wants nothing more than for the body of believers to turn on one another and for there to be division.
- This is one of the main problems in the church today and it is expressly why we have over 44,000 Christian denominations.
- We are unstable because we are divided, and that division is not something that Christ intended.
- It is because we chose not to promote harmony within the church and to be “like minded,” and instead we chose to separate.
- Promoting harmony within our churches is of the utmost importance if we are going to be stable spiritually and become mature in the faith.
- Paul chose to call out two members of the Philippian church by name, some might ask why was a dispute between just two church members that important?
- A chain is only as good as each link.
- Division is also like a wildfire, it only needs a spark and a small flame to in the end consume everything.

1 Corinthians 1:10

¹⁰I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.

1 Peter 3:8,

⁸Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.

2. Maintain Joy (v.4)

- This is the theme of the entire book.
- Paul has repeatedly spoke about joy and rejoicing in the Lord.
- **So many people look at joy as an emotion and a feeling, when in reality it is a deep-seated confidence that God is in control of everything.**
- For us to be spiritually stable, we must maintain this “joy in Christ.”
- If we waver from this joy that means we have wavered from Christ, and there is absolutely no stability apart from Jesus Christ.
- Too often we allow things of this earth to steal our joy in Christ and we fall prey to Satan’s attacks.
- Like what we learned last week, we must press on, however were must also learn to stand firm and not allow the things of this life to not us down. If we do that, we will be able to press on.
- Ask yourself some questions: Do you have any issues with someone who goes to church with you?
- How well are you doing in helping to Promote Harmony among Members?
- What about your family at home?
- Are you maintaining joy in Christ?