

## **Philippians 4a**

Verse 1 is the end of the previous section. "Love and long for, my joy and crown" is this our relationship with other Christians? If you are having a problem seeing brothers and sister in Christ as your joy, ask God to show you what He is making of them. What is Paul referring to when he says, "that is the way we should stand firm"?

Verse 2,3 Heavens no! Not bickering and division in the early church. Yep! And Paul's solution: Agree in the Lord! We have so much we agree on why get into the little divisive side issues? They were real co-laborers (the word in Greek, Syzygus may have been a personal name but not likely) with Paul in the Gospel. He values their gifts and ministry and asks the body to help them. As he included Clement I don't think he meant to help them agree but to help them in their ministry. Women are not to inferior in their gifts and ministry. Since Paul has asked the older women to teach the younger women, I wonder if this is their gift, teaching. Titus 2:3,4 Lightfoot suggests the churches were two separate churches in each one's home. (Messianic Jews and Gentile Christians)? The name Clement is quite common. This is the only mention of the Book of Life outside the 7x in Revelation in the NT. Even though they may bicker their names are written in the book of life. Application?

Verse 4 The forth mention in the letter to turn to joy. In the Lord we always have reason to rejoice. "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world." Jesus When I am tempted to look at the pressures and problems, I must realize I am in the LORD and they are easily handled by Him. So I can turn from the gloom to joy because of who He is and that I am in Him. Anytime? Any circumstance?

Verse 5 Gentleness is a fruit of the Spirit lauded in the NT but very rarely mentioned in the church today. Jesus was gentle. Matthew 11:29 2Corinthians 10:1 Ephesians 4:2

Verse 6,7 ANYTHING! Give it all to God in prayer and trust Him. And thank Him that He will be faithful to give you what you need, and not necessarily what you ask for, but what is best for you. I wonder if this church was a worrying church, since Paul keeps reminding them to rejoice and give things to God in trust. Luke 21:34

If you have asked God about your concern, thanked Him for doing what is best, this peace that goes beyond the circumstances, will guard your heart (- the desires and concerns), and mind – (the thoughts and plans) and anxious thoughts IN JESUS. 1Peter 5:7 (on back for memory)

Verse 8 Great memory verse because we so often are in need of capturing our thoughts. Why does Paul say to think on these things? How does that relate to the problems in Philippi? In Sedona? In your life? 2 Corinthians 10:5 This verse is on the back to stick on your fridge.

Verse 9 What confidence that He was walking in the Spirit. "Do as I do and the God of Peace will be with you." WOW! How convicting. Everything we do should be an example to the flock. We must live vs 4,5! This is the second time in this letter he has said to follow his example. 1 Thessalonians 1:6 Which fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22,23) has Paul mentioned in this short passage?

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.  
1 Peter 5:7 (NIV)

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble,  
whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely,  
whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or  
praiseworthy--think about such things. Philippians 4:8  
(NIV)