

## Exegetical Notes – Philippians 4:1-4

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### Philippians 4:1-4

#### Verse 1

***<sup>1</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!***

- Paul told the Philippians, and through them, us, that all Christians should live their lives in expectation of the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Either we will die and be called home to the Lord, or the clouds will be rolled back like a scroll and the Lord, Himself, will return to take His bride, the Church, home. When one or the other of these events happens, we will be changed. He will “transform our lowly bodies and they shall be like His glorious body, and we shall be like Him in all of His glory” (see Philippians 3:21). Amen!
- “THEREFORE”! Because of this great and glorious truth, all Christians should “stand firm in the Lord.” Because we know this great truth, we trust God in everything. We stand firm in Christ in our faith.

#### Verses 2-3

***<sup>2</sup> I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup> Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.***

- This, standing firm in our faith, will influence the way we live with each other.
- In the congregation at Phillipi, were two women, Euodia and Syntyche. Note that in his letter to the Philippians, a congregational letter, not a private letter to these women, Paul calls them out by name! He does not do so to embarrass them publicly, but because their behavior affects the life of the whole church. Remember that this letter was eventually circulated among all the churches with this “calling out” of these two women by name still in it. This is so because the way we treat each other as brothers and sisters in Christ affects the life of the whole Church.

- These two women are “of a different mind” about something. We are not told what the matter that divided them was, but they are divided from each other about it. Once, they worked together side by side with Paul as sisters in Christ. But now they are divided from each other because of this matter. Some personal issue has made them personal enemies instead of co-workers for the cause of Christ.
- They have forgotten the great issue. They have forgotten that above everything else they are to live for Christ, and have let their personal issue with each other become the “greater issue.”
- Paul “pleads with them” to agree with each. He pleads with them to make the main thing the main thing. Their devotion to Christ should cause them to love each other so that together they may serve Him.
- Paul calls upon “his loyal yokefellow” (in this translation, “his dear friend”) to help these women to resolve the problem. We do not know who this person was, but apparently this person knew who he was. Paul is saying to this person that it is his job to bring these women back into agreement because their division is harmful to the Church and to the women, personally. They are making their personal difference with each other more important than the cause of Jesus Christ.
- In the past, Euodia and Syntyche worked together with the faithful to bring the good news of the Gospel to the lost. Now, those who are still faithful to the Lord must work together to show them their error.

#### **Verse 4**

#### ***<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!***

- This verse actually begins the closing of the letter to the Philippians, but it also stresses the point in the argument above. There is no question that Euodia and Syntyche are Christian. The day will come when they stand in the Lord in gloriously transformed bodies. So, rather than argue with each other and allow their personal issues to divide them and harm the Church, they should rejoice! So should we!

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