



## **KNOWING CHRIST**

Lessons from Paul's Life and Ministry

### ***JOY IN CHRIST***

**Philippians 4:1-23**

Inductive Discovery Lesson 17

It has been said that the trouble with life is that life is trouble. As Job 5:7 says, "Man is born to trouble as surely as the sparks fly upward."

Paul finishes this letter with a plea to stand firm in the Lord and some specific advice about how to do that. He urges two friends to resolve their differences. We don't know what sparked the argument, but it was causing dissension in the church. Paul told his Philippian friends how to keep worry from overtaking their thoughts and dominating their actions. He gave them the formula for peace and contentment, even in troublesome circumstances.

Paul didn't just make this stuff up or get it out of a self-help book. He was *living* it. He knew where the source of his help and strength came from... "*And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus.*"

**Working Text for Philippians 4:1-23**  
English Standard Version (ESV)

**1** Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

**2** I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. **3** Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

**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. **14** Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble.

**15** And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. **16** Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. **17** Not that I seek the

gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. **18** I have received full payment, and more. 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.

**21** Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. **22** All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household. **23** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.



**Use the second column to record information you gather from other sources** such as a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down **your thoughts, impressions or questions that come to mind.** *Do your best to follow Paul's train of thought.* Does he emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

Facts from the passage:

### My Research and Personal Observations:

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**Philippians 4:10-14**

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

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**Philippians 4:15-23**

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

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## Key Words and Phrases

Key words and phrases help us understand the main point the writer wants to make. How do we recognize key words and phrases? Here are some simple things to look for.

- When you see a word or phrase repeated, you can be sure Paul is using it to make his point.
- If you are unfamiliar with a word or its meaning, it becomes a key word *for you*. Take time to learn the definition so you will understand how it is being used in the sentence.

List any key words and phrases you found in Philippians 4:1-23.

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Write the definition of the following words or phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a concordance with a Greek Dictionary if you have one.

“whatever things are **true**” (vs. 8) \_\_\_\_\_

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“**noble**” (vs.8) \_\_\_\_\_

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“**just**” (vs.8) \_\_\_\_\_

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“**pure**” (vs.8) \_\_\_\_\_

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“**lovely**” (vs.8) \_\_\_\_\_

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“of **good report**” (vs.8) \_\_\_\_\_

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“any **virtue**” (vs.8) \_\_\_\_\_

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“**praiseworthy**” (vs.8) \_\_\_\_\_

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### **INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?***

**Look for a spiritual lesson.** Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

### **APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?***

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to ***put it into action***.

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

#### **Philippians 4:1-9**

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_ ?

#### **Philippians 4:10-14**

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_ ?

#### **Philippians 4:15-23**

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_ ?

### **Summary**

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the passage is about. \_\_\_\_\_

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



## Take a Closer Look

Be anxious for nothing,  
but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving  
let your requests be made known to God.  
And the peace of God which surpasses all comprehension,  
will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.  
Philippians 4:6-7 NAS

### *Memorize God's Word*

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

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### *Meditate on God's Word*

**Look up.** What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

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**Look around.** What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

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**Look within.** What does this verse teach you about yourself?

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**Look ahead.** Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

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**Look alive!** Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

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## ***Make God's Word Your Prayer***

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.

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## **Something to Think About . . .**

Most Christians are being crucified on a cross between two thieves:  
yesterday's regret and tomorrow's worries.  
Warren Wiersbe



## **God's Word Bearing Fruit**

For you, personally, what has been the most important lesson from this study?  
How will you put what God has shown you into practice?

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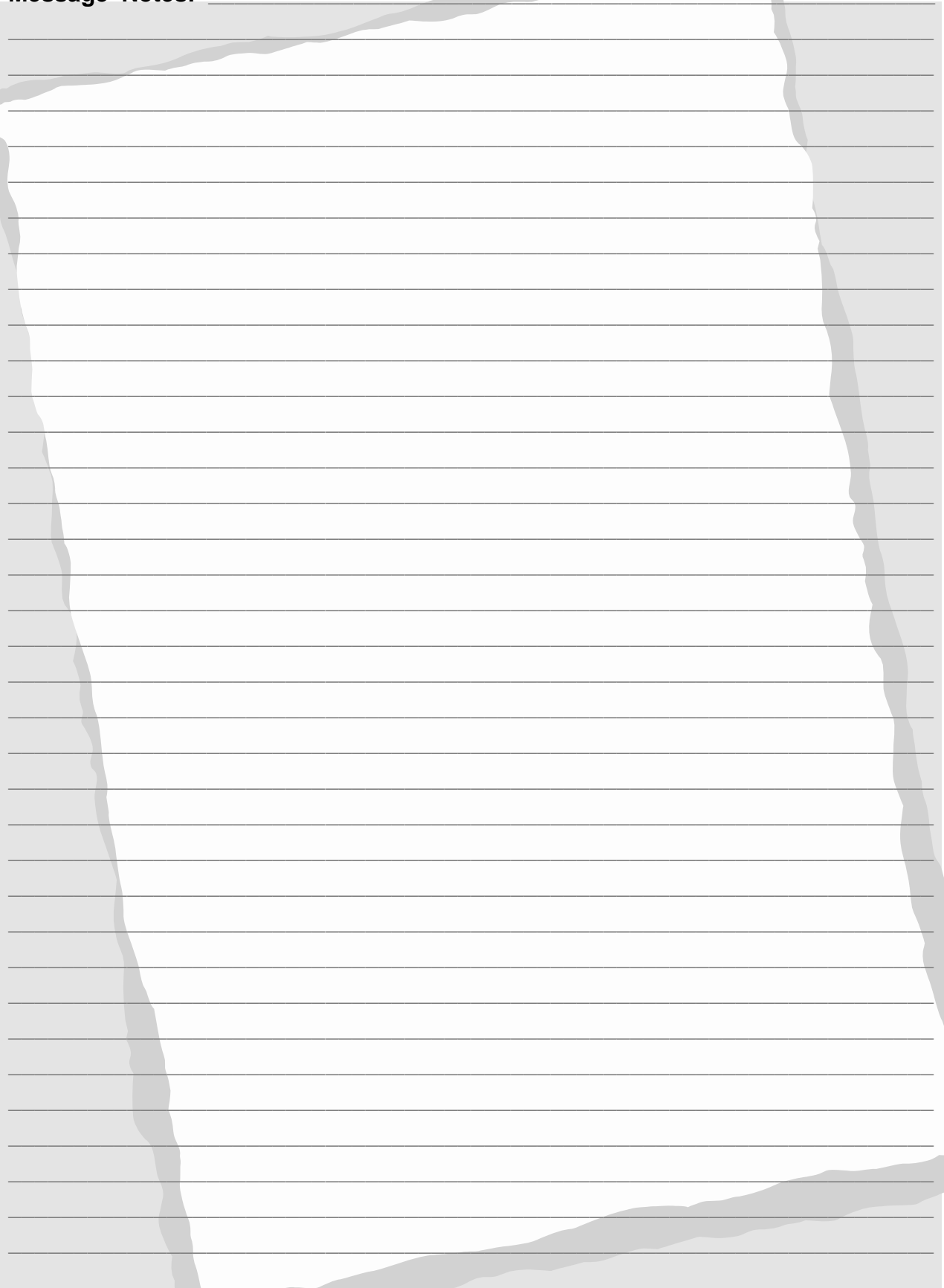
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**Message Notes:**



A large rectangular area with horizontal lines, resembling a notepad or a message box. The area is defined by a thick, irregular, torn-paper-like border on the left and bottom edges. The top edge is straight. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the box.





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