
THE BIG IDEA

What is the main truth The Lord showed you in this passage?

Paul’s Beloved Fellow Laborers

Philippians 4:1-4

1 Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.

2 I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.

3 And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.

4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

Having pointed his readers to the heavenly goal and future glory of the redemption, Paul now turns to some practical matters in Philippi. Evidently there was some friction between two women who served together with him at one point. He first states his love for and confidence in the Philippians, then offers an admonition to unity. Paul, who has a true relationship with his readers, shares specific concerns and praises for some by name. This correction is couched in love and joy. While there may be some friction Paul urges the Philippians to rejoice “always”!

Part 1 – Dearly Beloved

Read Philippians 4:1; Matthew 4:16-17

- 1) Twice in this verse Paul describes the Philippians as “dearly beloved.” What other terms does he use and how do they complement “dearly beloved”?
- 2) How does God’s use of this same term “beloved” in Matthew 4 bring added meaning to our Christian relationships?
- 3) How is Paul’s relationship with the Philippians instructive to you as you consider your Christian family?

Part 2—The Same Mind

Read Philippians 4:2-3; Romans 12:9-21

- 1) What can we understand of the relationship between these women from these verses?
- 2) What in Paul’s instruction in Romans 12 stands out to you as a great help for Christians to have the “same mind”?
- 3) In what ways have you practice this “same mind” and experienced peaceful unity in the church?

Part 3—Laboring Together

Read Philippians 4:3; Philippians 1:27

- 1) What part do you think “laboring together” plays in protecting unity in the church?
- 2) What did Paul indicate earlier in his letter would be the unifying focus of the Philippians?
- 3) In what practical ways can you labor together with God’s people?

Part 4—Again...Rejoice!

Read Philippians 4:4; Acts 16:22-25

- 1) How many times had Paul already mentioned “joy” or ‘Rejoice’ in this letter?
- 2) According to Acts 16 how was Paul’s instruction to rejoice more than mere Christian Jargon?
- 3) Why/how do you think it is possible to “always” rejoice?

