

/Hello. / We will now begin with the eleventh lecture on the prison epistles. / Today's Word is Philippians chapter 4.

/The title of this chapter is "Rejoice in the Lord." / First, have the same heart. Verses 1-3. / Second, rejoice always. Verses 4-7. / Third, bear fruits of virtue. Verses 8-9. / Fourth, participation through gifts. Verses 10-20. / Fifth, greetings and blessings. Verses 21-23.

/First, have the same heart. Verses 1-3

/Read verse 1. / Therefore, 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!

/Paul truly loved the church of Philippi. / Hence, he sacrificed everything for the church and he rejoiced in it. / He said that even if he was being poured out like a drink offering, he would still rejoice.

/He said, "whom I love and long for, my joy and crown." / It is a joy and crown for pastors when members of the church bear good fruit of faith.

/Paul would boast of the believers of Philippi when Jesus returns. / 2 Corinthians 1:14. / They were his joy and crown because through him they bore the fruit of faith.

/They would boast of one another later in heaven. / They would say that they grew in faith because of Paul's teachings. / Paul would boast of them because they bore fruit of faith and grew mature in faith through his teachings.

/Paul also said, "stand firm in the Lord." / This means that we must stand firm in spiritual faith.

/Verse 2. / I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord.

/It says, "agree with each other in the Lord." / Paul told them to agree with each other in the Lord because they were disagreed with each other. / Paul also mentions Euodia and Syntyche.

/They were female believers who volunteered in the church and helped Paul. / They probably wrote annual reports and volunteered much. / However, there was discord between them.

/Therefore, Paul encouraged them to agree with each other in the Lord. / Agreement in the Lord is mentioned in 2:5-8. / It is the heart of Christ Jesus.

/If each of us puts aside our hearts and have the same mindset as Jesus, we can all agree with each other in the Lord. / What is the mindset of Jesus? / It is the lowly servant-like mindset that abandoned all glory, power, and honor.

/Jesus who is Creator and God became low like all of creation. / He became a servant, abandoning all honor, glory, the throne, and power. / We must be the same. / We must let go of ourselves and have the heart of a servant.

/We must have obedient hearts until death in order that we would fulfill the will of God. / It is the same in the church.

/We can be one when we all have the same mindset as Jesus. / We must also have the same mindset as Jesus in the church.

/Verse 3. / Yes, 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.

/It says, "I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel." / He is referring to the church leaders of Philippi. / He asks them, "help these women, who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel."

/They were currently fighting with one another. / Paul tells them that just because they did wrong, / it does not mean that their good works in the past are to be ignored. / Paul told them to lead the believers in love and turn away from what is wrong.

/Those who help servants of the gospel have the same rewards. / Those who receive prophets in the name of prophets, / those who give a glass of cold water to a brother, / and those who help with faith all receive the same reward.

/Therefore, we must help one another. / It says that their names are written in the book of life.  
/ All faithful acts done for the Lord are recorded in the book of life.

/There are three things about names that are recorded in the book of life. / First, the names of the chosen are written in the book of life of God's kingdom.

/Second, God remembers and rewards all fruits of labor that we keep in faith. / Third, each believer grows through obedience in God's Word through faith, and those who become mature will be the greatest in heaven. / These are the three meanings of what it means to be recorded in the book of life.

/Second, rejoice always. Verses 4-7.

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

/Paul said, "Rejoice in the Lord always." /In the book of Philippians, the word "rejoice" is recorded eighteen times. / Paul was imprisoned at this time.

/Even while he was imprisoned, he asked the people outside of prison to rejoice with him. / How can we rejoice like Paul in whatever circumstance we are in?

/How can we rejoice always? / First, / we can rejoice when we depend on Jesus. / Second, we can rejoice by living in the Holy Spirit.

/Third, we can rejoice by participating in Jesus' life and power and live in His strength. / Fourth, we can rejoice by being hopeful even in the midst of hardships. / We must always rejoice.

/Verse 5. / Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

/We must show our generous hearts to everyone. / This is one way of living life in joy. / When we are generous to people, we can rejoice and be thankful.

/We can still rejoice when others harm and hurt us if we become patient and have generous

hearts. / Such people are prepared for the Second Coming of Jesus.

/Verses 6-7. / Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

/Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, present your requests to God. / It says, “by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

/“Prayer” refers to general prayer. / “Petition” refers to earnest prayer in times of specific events or problems. / We must pray for all things.

/The verses tell us to pray with thanksgiving. / Daniel prayed with thanksgiving in the lions’ den. / Once we enter and live in the spiritual world, we can rejoice and pray with thanksgiving.

/We can also pray with thanksgiving when we believe that God gave us everything in his grace, whether they are hardships, the cross, or thorns. / We must pray with faith that God will continue to give us the best things.

/There is great pain and uneasiness in the thoughts of man, / but it is important that we trust in God’s sovereignty and rejoice, and believe that God will lead us in the best way.

/Third, / bear fruits of virtue. Verses 8-9.

/Verse 8. / 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.

/It records here the things that are true, right, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellence, and worthy of praise. / The verse teaches us that we believers must strive to live with morals.

/We must be true. / We must use our conscience. / We must speak and act truthfully. / Next, it says to be “noble.” / This means that we must be virtuous. / We must not live in debauchery.

/Next, we must be “right.” / This is to be in accordance with God’s Word. / It also says we must be “pure.” / This refers to purity and morality. / It means to be clean. / It is to be free from injustice.

/Next, we must be “lovely.” / We must be morally worthy of love before everyone. / We must be “admirable.”

/We must be admirable before believers in the church / and be admirable before God. / We must not do things to be rebuked of. / We can be admirable before others if we are first upright before God.

/Of course, we must not work just to receive praise from people. / It says, “if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.”/This means that we must value and think well of whatever is excellent and worthy of praise.

/For instance, let us say that there is a man who cleans the church restrooms. / He is commendable in serving the church. / No one should rebuke him by saying, “Why are you cleaning now when there are people in the church today?”

/We must always be virtuous. / To be virtuous means to benefit other people. / We must be believers who / bear fruit of goodness. /We believers must bear good fruit.

/Verse 9. / Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me-- put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

/The believers of Philippi learned the truth from Paul. / Paul told them to practice it. / If we have properly learned God’s Word, we must live it out. / It says, “And the God of peace will be with you.”

/If we receive God’s Word and act according to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, / our spirits will grow. / We will also have peace in our hearts. / God will be with us.

/Even if we received the valuable truth, / if we do not practice it, / it will crumble like a house that is built on sand in a flood. / If we have properly learned the truth, we must then put it into practice.

/Fourth, participation through gifts. Verses 10-20.

/Verse 10. /I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it.

/The believers of Philippi had the heart to help Paul, and this time they were able to do so. / The fact that they took the opportunity to help Paul with materials is very honorable.

/Their gifts were fragrant offerings that pleased the Lord. / Paul did not rejoice for the materials he received, but for their concern for him and the fruit of faith that was shown through their help.

/For example, let us say that a father bought candy and gave it to his son. / The candy then became covered in the son's saliva. / After a while, he gave the candy to his father. / The father then took the candy and ate it with joy.

/The father could have bought candy for himself if he wanted to. / However, the reason he took the candy from his son was / because he realized, "My son thought about his father and knew how to be thankful!" / The father rejoiced in that.

/In the same way, Paul rejoiced over the fact that the believers of Philippi thought about him and that they bore fruit of faith.

/Verse 11. / I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

/Paul always lived a life of contentment. / He was always content and thankful. / He said in this verse that he learned to be content in any situation, whether in abundance or in need.

/Paul was not subject to materials. / He always gave thanks with faith and lived a content life. / That is true faith. / We believers know how to give thanks when we have an abundance.

/However, when we blame God in times of poverty or when we are in need, it shows that our

faith is shallow. / We must not be subject to materials and always be content with thanksgiving.

/People normally think that they are blessed when they earn a lot of money. / They say, "Thank you God." / Yet, when situations get tough and they end up in poverty, they become disheartened and blame God.

/This is not true faith. / We must be able to give thanks no matter what. / Paul transcended materials. / He always kept his faith whether he had a lot or was in need.

/Those who are subject to materials are those who belong to the flesh. / They are immature believers who are not yet capable of taking care of spiritual matters. / We must always be able to stand firm in our faith whether we are in need or have an abundance.

/Can we say that we have true faith when we abandon our faith in times of trouble? / There is a saying, "The faith of an unmarried woman is not true faith."

/Unmarried individuals tend to have good faith when they are single because they are alone. / However, they can prove that they have truly good faith when they keep their faith after they are married.

/We must have the faith that does not falter in times of trouble. / Paul learned the secret to being content in whatever the circumstances. / We must learn this secret and hold onto our faith.

/Verse 13. / I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

/Living faith says, "I can do all things." / Dead faith says, "I cannot do anything." / We can do anything when we obey the Bible. / We can do everything in Jesus.

/On the contrary, we cannot do anything apart from Jesus. / The verse says, "through him who gives me strength." / What does this mean? / This means that we can do all things when God uses us according to his will.

/We can do anything because God gives us strength. / God helps us because we obey the

works of God. / Second, / as is written in the Bible, we can do everything that is in accordance with God's will.

/God gives us strength because we act according to God's Word. / God's Word is the Word of life and power. / We are given strength when we act according to God's Word.

/Third, we can do everything with the power of the Lord. / Nothing can stop God. / We can do everything because God helps us with his power.

/Trying to block God's works is like trying to break a stone with an egg. / It only harms those who attempt to do so. / We must obey when God is working.

/A boy gave five loaves of bread and two fish to Jesus. / We are like the loaves of bread, and it is not expensive bread. / The bread is insignificant. / However, when it was offered to Jesus, it became used for great works.

/We are weak, but we are used when God plans to use us. / When Jesus entered Jerusalem, / He rode on a donkey. / The donkey had nothing to receive praise from people.

/The donkey was short and weak. / Its belly was large and its ears were long. / However, as it served Jesus, people also praised the donkey while they praised Jesus.

/We are lacking in many ways, but we can be worthy once Jesus uses us. / Also, in the Old Testament times, Moses made the Ark of the Covenant according to God's commands.

/It was made of acacia wood. / Acacia has thorns. / It pricks. / We are like that worthless tree – we easily hurt people. /The acacia tree is not a valuable tree.

/Yet, because God's Word was contained in it, the Ark of the Covenant became extremely valuable and holy. / We all are lacking, but we are empowered when we obey God's Word.

/God's salvation plan is not achieved through human efforts. / It is achieved through God's power. / We only have to be used and obey.



/Just as acacia wood was used for the Ark of the Covenant, / and just how the young donkey served Jesus, we must obey.

/We cannot do anything because we are weak / and though things may seem impossible to be achieved with our efforts, / it will be done when we follow the Holy Spirit and obey God's Word.

/God's power is upon us when we attempt to obey God's Word. / That is how we can defeat sin. / We can break the chains of sins. / We can be victorious against the devil and overcome the world.

/This is why Paul said, "I can do everything through him who gives me strength." / We can persevere and overcome our sufferings. / We can be victorious even if we have to die.

/Verse 14. / Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles.

/Paul was currently imprisoned. / The believers of Philippi helped Paul by sending him materials. / They shared with Paul in his troubles. / It is honorable for members of the church to help the leaders of the church.

/Verse 15. / Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only;

/The believers of Philippi helped Paul by sending him materials when he began to preach the gospel. / They participated in working for the kingdom of heaven. / They were worthy to be rewarded by God.

/The believers of Philippi were very loyal in serving Paul with materials. / Paul said, "except you only," which shows that the believers of Philippi really helped Paul.

/Verse 16. / for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need.

/Paul was in need while he was in Thessalonica. / Hence, he worked and shared the gospel. /

2 Thessalonians 3:8. / The believers of Philippi helped Paul several times during this time.

/Can you imagine how much of an encouragement it would have been for Paul? / When pastors share the gospel or when anyone is in need, helping them would be a great encouragement for them. / I once heard about a pastor who was in a very difficult situation when he established a church.

/Because he was leading a newly established church, the situation was very difficult. / There was no rice to eat. / His wife told him, “We have no more rice.” Then the pastor went up to the mountain to pray.

/Just then, a man was there on a visit to his hometown, / and was waiting for the bus at the bus station after he finished his business. / Time passed and when the man saw that the bus was not coming, he stepped inside a church right outside.

/As he was praying, he was moved in his heart to offer materials to the pastor’s wife. / God moved his heart and made him help the church.

/How encouraging would it have been for the pastor and his wife to receive such help?

/In the same way, help from the believers of Philippi was a great encouragement for Paul. / We must also help the workers of God with materials.

/Verse 17. / Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account.

/Paul did not rejoice for their gifts. / Paul rejoiced for the fruits of faith that was bearing in them.

/To give gifts is to bear fruit. / There are many spiritual benefits. / The Bible told us to store our treasures in heaven. / Even here in the verse, it says, “but I am looking for what may be credited to your account.”

/To give gifts is to bear fruit. / It is the fruit of realizing God’s grace. / It is the fruit of thanksgiving for that grace. / It is the fruit that we use in faith. / It is the fruit of loving God.

/It is the fruit of participating in God's salvation plan. / Can you imagine how much rewards we will have before God when we bear fruits?

/Verse 18. / I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.

/Paul said that he received full payment and even more. / He was also well supplied. / What would a man who was imprisoned be well supplied for? / There must have been many things he lacked in prison.

/However, seeing that Paul said these words, we can see that Paul was content. / A greedy person wants more and more even if he has a lot. / A person without greed is content and gives thanks for even the smallest things.

/We came to this world empty-handed and we will leave empty-handed. / We are stewards who work with things that belong to God. / Stewards must use things and work for their master.

/We must not offer things to one another with stingy hearts. / Stewards must not consider their masters' properties as their own. / God gave us materials to do the work of faith.

/Therefore, the materials God gave us are for us to live and do the work of faith. / Concerning gifts, it says here, "a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God."

/Offerings please God. / Believers do not offer a lot just because they have a lot. / They do not offer a little because they have little.

/Offerings are given according to one's faith. / It is to use faith. / Also, it is to participate in the gospel with materials.

/It is to participate in the salvation plan, which saves the souls of others. / It is to give thanks to God. / It is to love God.

/As stated before, it is like a son giving his candy back to his father because he loves his father. / Does the father have no money to buy candy?

/What does God lack? / Offerings are for giving thanks, glorifying, and pleasing God.

/Verse 19. / And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

/God will supply us with our every need. / He provides for all our needs when we love God and give offerings with thanksgiving for God's grace. / Giving offerings to God is like planting seeds in the field.

/The seeds will grow and bear fruit. / 2 Corinthians 9:6. / Whoever sows little will reap little, / and whoever sow many will reap many. / We must sow a lot while we are here on earth.

/God supplies us with spiritual things and with rewards in heaven. / Not only that, but God supplies us with materials and other things of the world when we need it.

/Verse 20. / To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

/Paul encouraged the believers of Philippi. / Paul wanted them to grow spiritually mature, / and become more and more like the image of Christ. / Paul said that he glorified God through this.

/Fifth, greetings and blessings. Verses 21-23.

/It says in verse 21, "Greet all the saints in Christ Jesus." / Every believer should greet one another. / It is wrong to ignore and refuse to greet people at church.

/We believers must interact with one another in faith. / We must be in peace with one another. / The Bible says that the peacemakers will be called children of God.

/Paul says this again in verse 22. / Each believer is to greet one another.

/We must not only greet those who are close with us, / but we must greet everybody.

/It says here, “especially those who belong to Caesar's household.” / This refers to the royal family. / The gospel reached the royal family at the time. / Normally speaking, would a royal family greet those in the lowest class?

/It is special and honorable that all believers greet one another in faith. / The royals were not in circumstances to believe, but even in those situations, they believed in Jesus through God's special grace.

/We must greet other believers because we have been saved through faith by God's grace.

/Verse 23. / The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

/It says, “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.” / The grace of Jesus Christ must always be in our spirits.

/Then we can overcome everything with faith. / This is why we must always strive to live in His grace.

/With this we will conclude the eleventh lecture on the prison epistles. / Thank you very much.