Let this mind be in you...

Study 5

SIC

# The peace of God shall keep your hearts and minds

## Paul's Letter to the Philippians — Outline

#### 3:1–4:3 The Philippians' affairs—again

- 3:1–4 At Issue: The threat of Judaism
- 3:4–14 The example of Paul
- 3:15–4:3 Application and a final, direct, appeal

#### 4:4–23 Concluding matters

- 4:4–9 Concluding exhortations
- 4:10–20 Thanks for their gift, Paul's example, their example, God's blessing
- 4:21–23 Closing greetings

1. Stand ye fast

2. In one spirit with one mind

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#### **EUODIAS**

Greek is 'Euodia', a compound of:

- 1. eu good, well;
- 2. 'odia road, progress

  (as mode or means)
  speaks of "to succeed in business affairs"

#### SYNTYCHE

Greek compound word:

- 1. sun = together, union
- 2. *tyche* = fortunate, chance

Hence "to chance together; together by accident".



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CA

1. Stand ye fast (to the ecclesia v.1)

2. In one spirit with one mind (to the two sisters v.2)

3. Striving together for the faith of the gospel (to the ecclesia v.3)

#### The Book of Life

- Ex. 32:32 "...blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written."
- Heb.12:22–23 the heavenly register.
- Psalm 69:28 "Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous."
- Dan. 12:1 "...every one that shall be found written in the book."
- Luke 10:20 "...rejoice, because your names are written in heaven."
- Rev. 3:5 "... I will not blot out his name out of the book of life"

## Paul brings the letter to a close

Chapter 3:1

Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord

Chapter 4:4, 8

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Rejoice in the Lord alway...Finally, brethren

## Special chiasmus

- A) Finally, my brethren,
  - B) rejoice in the Lord
  - B) Rejoice in the Lord alway...
- A) Finally, brethren

#### Two exhortation blocks

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Rejoice in the Lord alway... verses 4–7

Finally, brethren... verses 8–9

#### Two exhortation blocks

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Rejoice in the Lord alway... verses 4–7

V. 7 the peace of God

Finally, brethren... verses 8-9

V. 9 the God of peace

## A chiasmus binds each exhortation block

A) the peace

B) of God

B) the God

A) of peace

The two issues

- 1. External opposition
- 2. Internal strife

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The Jewish mindset — (Judaism)

- The Jewish mindset (Judaism)
- The Greco-Romain philosophical mindset (Stoicism)

#### Stoicism

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Stoics "taught that people should be free from passion, unmoved by joy or grief and submit without complaint to unavoidable necessity".

Dictionary.Com

#### Stoicism

According to its teachings, as social beings, the path to eudaimonia (happiness, or blessedness) is found in accepting the moment as it presents itself, by not allowing oneself to be controlled by the desire for pleasure or by the fear of pain, by using one's mind to understand the world and to do one's part in nature's plan, and by working together and treating others fairly and justly.

## Five key principles of Stoicism

- 1. Live in agreement with Nature The Stoic goal of life
- 2. Live by virtue The highest of all good
- 3. Amour Fati Love everything that happens
- 4. Turn obstacles into opportunities
- 5. Be mindful This is where it all begins

## Stoic Citizenship

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"Each human being is primarily a citizen of his own commonwealth; but he is also a member of the great city of gods and men, whereof the city political is only a copy."

- Epictetus, *Discourses* 

#### Stoic Peace

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"The idea was to be free of suffering through *apatheia* (Greek: ἀπάθεια; literally, "without passion") or peace of mind—being objective or having "clear judgment" and the maintenance of equanimity in the face of life's highs and lows."

- Wikipedia

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The Jewish mindset — (Judaism)

The Greco-Romain philosophical mindset (Stoicism)

- 4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.
- 5 Let your moderation be known unto all men.

The Lord is at nigh.

6 Be careful for nothing

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**STOIC** 

## Biblical reasons to rejoice

- 1. Salvation (personal and national)
- 2. For God

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3. For Others

## Rejoicing in hope

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- By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." (Rom. 5:2)
- "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer" (Rom. 12:12)
- "But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end." (Heb. 3:6)
- "Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven. (Luke 10:20)

## Let your moderation be known unto all men

#### moderation

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epieikés = "reasonable, fair, gentle, kind, lenient, fitting, patient, mild, tolerant, courteous, yielding".

It has the legal meaning of "clemency" or "leniency".

#### The Lord is at hand

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**At hand** *eggus* = "near, nigh, close". Can be used of:

1. time (Matt. 24:32)

2. place (Luke 19:11)

3. relationship (Eph. 2:7)

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- Isaiah 55:6 "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near"
- Isaiah 50:8 "He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me?"
- Psalm 119:151 "Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy commandments are truth."
- Deut. 4:7 "For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for?"

in everything by prayer...

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in everything by prayer:

even supplication with thanksgiving

let your requests be made known unto God

in everything by prayer...

SIC

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even supplication with thanksgiving

let your requests be made known unto God

"In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks. Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength"

Isaiah 26:1-4

## v. 8 The second exhortation block (A)

Finally, brethren,

whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honourable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are pleasing, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue [excellence], and if there be any praise, these things think [deliberate] on

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these things think [deliberate] on

## v. 9 The second exhortation block (B)

what ye have both learned and received,
and heard and seen in me,
Those things, Do [practice]:
and the God of peace
shall be with you.

## Another special chiasmus (1:30 & 4:9)

- A) saw in me
  - B) hear to be in me
  - B) heard (in me)
- A) seen in me