



# MONDAY 23 APRIL 2018

SERIES: Philippians

## Read: Philippians 4:1-3

### Plug In...

With the word 'therefore' we're linked to the previous things Paul has said: we've gained and know Christ; we are called heavenward, so press on; if following Christ produces suffering, so be it, for with Christ in His sufferings, then with Christ in His resurrection.

In light of all of the above, Pauls says, "Therefore...stand firm". An immediate outworking of this is a relationship that has gone sour. This is a relationship within the Philippian church, the two women mentioned are described as partners with Paul and the Philippians in the work of the gospel.

### Chew It Over...

Who are you out of relationship with? In order to follow Christ, what is this relationship going to take from you to restore it?

Consider: *What is the other person likely to be up against when being in relationship with you?* (What makes it hard for them to be in relationship with you?)

Consider: What will you do to consider their interests above yours?

Spend some time listing relationships that need strengthening and have this passage with you as you decide on your next steps.

*“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”* ([Philippians 2:3-4](#))

## **Prayer Suggestion**

Pray for each relationship you are strengthening.



TUESDAY 24 APRIL 2018

SERIES: Philippians

## Read: Philippians 4:4-5

### Plug In...

"The Lord is near" because Jesus Christ has been to earth, died, and risen again to control His Kingdom.

### Chew It Over...

In the New Testament when it mentions that the Lord is *near* we often think this means that Jesus is coming around the corner. We might even try to interpret signs that say He's about to come. But the language of 'soon' and 'near' in the New Testament gets us looking backwards. Backwards to the cross and resurrection of Jesus. The whole plan of history was God bringing His Kingdom, a day of judgement and salvation. So that day has come near, in that it has started. The clock is now ticking ([Revelation 1:1-4](#)). The period after Jesus' death and resurrection through to His second coming is a time like none other in history. It is a moment where we confirm our destiny by accepting or rejecting Jesus. People are not only judged or saved in the future, but that judgement or salvation starts now.

How does living in this time-zone shape your day today? Why is it that we can rejoice and control our power and use it for good towards others ('gentleness') because the Lord is near?

### Prayer Suggestion

May our outlook be so different now. Start me rejoicing today. Rejoice always.



WEDNESDAY 25 APRIL 2018

SERIES: Philippians

## Read: Philippians 4:4-9

### **Plug In...**

This passage lists how the Christian thinks, feels, and acts – all because of Christ:

Rejoicing; less worry; constantly prayerful; carrying peace through life. Even thinking differently which is not just intellectual, but heart-thought. The heart is shaping and driving completely different behaviours, actions in our lives. We 'put into practice' these things (v.9). We habituate and locate a completely different approach to what we think, say, do.

### **Chew It Over...**

Think about what worries you? (List at least three specific things). What do you need to do?

How might you change up your heart-thought so that your life is propelled in a new direction? (Think about how a few months ago looked; imagine what it might look like in a few months from now.)

### **Prayer Suggestion**

And...present all this to the God of peace, who is with us, and guards us.



THURSDAY 26 APRIL 2018

SERIES: Philippians

## Read: Philippians 4:10-20

### **Plug In...**

"Rejoice in the Lord always!" (v.4). Now Paul himself actually rejoices in concrete specific responses to all his prayers and requests before God.

### **Chew It Over...**

What things does Paul rejoice greatly in? Name them all.

Paul goes on to describe the actions of the Philippians as a "fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God". We know it can't mean working to get God, so in what way does this please God?

### **Prayer Suggestion**

Ask God to make you aware of that which displeases Him. Ask for help to stop and turn around. Ask that you will be described more and more as pure, noble, pleasing.



FRIDAY 27 APRIL 2018

SERIES: Philippians

## Read: Philippians 4:11-13

### Plug In...

What is the secret of contentment? The answer is verse 13. He can do all that needs to be done under God because Jesus is with Him.

### Chew It Over...

Earlier Paul spoke of the opposite of contentment, it is grumbling and arguing. Someone said there are three symptoms of discontentment. Use them to see where your heart is at:

- Grumbling = belief God is not good or wise
- Worrying = don't trust God controls the future
- Bitterness = God didn't control the past

The antidote is that absolutely everything is under God's control.

This means, God controlled the past – for your good; God uses everything now to set you for the future.

The big things, the little things, the enjoyable things, the uncomfortable things, all come from God who is *good* (His goodness will not be questioned when seen from the end), who is all *wise* (He knows the best way to achieve everything).

Nothing is random – everything is for the glory of *our* God and Father (v.20).

## **Prayer Suggestion**

Teach me to be content in Jesus.



The Lakes

## WEEKEND 28-29 APRIL 2018

SERIES: Philippians

## Read: Philippians 4:20-23

### Plug In...

The final greetings of Paul are centred on living in light of the end glory of God. This is what it is all for.

So much of Paul's talk to the Philippians is to get them to live now, whatever those circumstances are, in light of the end. And, they can do it because the end of history has been shown. Review these passages in Philippians on the end of history:

[1:6](#) and [1:9-11](#)

[1:21-23](#)

[1:28](#)

[3:10-14](#)

[3:20-21](#)

[4:5](#)

### Chew It Over...

How does this perspective shape you? Does it challenge you?

### Prayer Suggestion

Pray in response to how you've been challenged by Philippians.