

The Philippians 500

(A 500 word, application-minded overview of the whole book)

Jesus is our source for peace and joy through all things. As Christians we are all partners in this great adventure, and partakers of God's grace. In order to mature in your mission, you begin by understanding that what God starts He performs and He finishes, we learn to trust the providence of God. We pray He would make us fruitful, understanding that we may be in tough spots sometimes. Others might look at our suffering the wrong way or even take advantage of us with wrong motives; still Christ and His message are spreading. We are called to live like Christ, and even that we might die for Christ. We have been given faith and can encourage those among us and live for Jesus even as God allows us to suffer.

We must pool together around the love and joy we find in Jesus. In humility we place the needs of others before our own, glorying in the understanding of our role in submission to God and His plan as lived out and exemplified by Our Lord. We learn to walk in obedient trust, having the proper perspective in serving God with reverence, and without complaining, fulfilling His will in all things. Then we can shine as true lights to the glory of God, and live lives poured out as an offering unto God, and even to the point of death, in this we can rejoice. We should honor soldiers of Christ who live like this before us.

We need to be constantly reminded to rejoice in the Lord, because there are many things that try to rob us. We must avoid legalistic traps and ritual superstition, and forget all our supposed accomplishments for God and seek Him by faith. We understand that we haven't arrived, and we learn to treasure God, not looking at how far we've come, or how good it might look behind us, but pressing on toward maturity, following along with others of like mind. God will guide us, warning and avoiding those who use grace as a license, keeping our eyes on the future glorification that awaits us in heaven.

We stand firm in the Lord, learning to overcome disagreements within the fellowship, praying with godly leaders and fellow workers, being reasonable people and remembering our joy is from the Lord and in Him. We posture ourselves humbly before God, giving our concerns to Him with thanksgiving, knowing His peace. We concentrate on the good things God brings about and we learn to face our fears in faith, serving and glorifying Him in wealth or poverty, in sickness and in health. We learn the secret of contentment, that Christ strengthens us to be able to endure any situation, and we learn to process these things accordingly. This is not mind over matter, but Christ in circumstance. We give of all our substance knowing God will supply all our needs. We have learned to trust and treasure God, and all the glory belongs to Him.