

8. Read Philippians 4:19

Are there any desperate needs that we are facing which our God cannot meet?

What specific and concerning needs are you facing at the moment?

How vast are God's resources and supplies?

How should the counsel the Apostle gives us in 4:19 answer our anxiety and bring joy?

What does Paul mean when he attaches the words "in Christ Jesus" to a statement like in this verse?

9. In Philippians 4:20 Paul worships God the Father with a doxology. From His letter as a whole why would he have wanted to praise God?

10. Why is 4:23 a wonderful final blessing to give to every Christian ("all the saints") v21?

Study 8

Philippians 4:10-23

For years Paul had been an itinerant pioneer missionary Apostle amongst the gentiles in the regions of Asia and Europe. When the church at Philippi, the first of his churches in Europe, heard that he was under house arrest in Rome, they took the opportunity to renew acquaintance with him and to send some well appreciated gifts and support to him, along with Epaphroditus from their church. Epaphroditus fell sick while with Paul in Rome and those back home became worried about him. He became well and Paul was now sending him back home to them (Philippians 2:25-30). Paul wrote this letter for Epaphroditus to take back with him to be read to the whole church as well as the Deacons and Elders (1:1). In this section Paul writes thanking them for their practical concern, love and support shown. In doing so he tries to be careful not to be seen to be asking for further support and also wants to convey to them that he has learned that God can be trusted on to supply all his and their needs to. This also causes him to rejoice in God.

Q1. What does Paul now turn to in Philippians 4:10 (and 4:18) which he says gave him still more joy?

Why do you think He rejoiced "in the Lord"?

What did it tell him about the Philippians?

Q2. What is Paul careful to avoid in 4:11?

Q3. Had Paul experienced diverse living situations? 4:12

What extremes had he faced in his nearly 30 years of Christian ministry?

4. What was the secret Paul had learned through these extreme experiences?
4:11-12

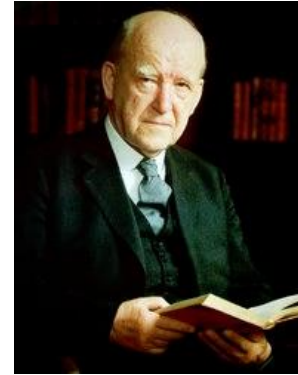
5. Is Paul boasting or being humble in 4:13? Please explain.

What does Paul reveal is behind his secret of contentment? Does he trust or have confidence in himself or someone else?

Consider what the Apostle Paul says elsewhere about relying on a mighty power that enters into us Christians.

See Philippians 1:6; 2:12-13; 3:10;

Ephesians 1:19-20; 2:10; 3:20-21



“The Christian, essentially, is a man who has received new life. We come back again to what I am never tired of quoting, namely, John Wesley’s favourite definition of a Christian. He found it in that book by Henry Scougal, a Scotsman who lived in the seventeenth century, and in the very title - ‘The life of God in the souls of men’. That is what makes a Christian. The Christian is not just a good, decent, moral man; the life of God has entered into him, there is an energy, a power, a life in him and it is that that makes him peculiarly and specifically Christian, and that is exactly what Paul is telling us here.” **Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones ‘The Life of Peace: Studies in Philippians 3 & 4’ p218-219**

6. Even though Paul tells them that he is contented in the Lord whatever his circumstances, did he appreciate their generosity? 4:14-16

Were they outstanding in their generosity?

7. Why does Paul encourage them for their generous giving? 4:17-18