

50-Philippians-04- Transcript

well good evening and welcome to chapter 4 of the book of Philippians and that clip that I just opened with you could hear some laughter in the background I didn't think it was funny at all I thought it was quite disturbing and quite tragic that we would see these two women I don't know what the context is I don't know why they were fighting but we see these two mature women engaged in this this brawl these fisticuffs and how unfortunate especially if they are church members and that really is the subject today in chapter 4 chapter 8 chapter 4 begins with a conflict between two women in this congregation at Philippi yo dia and Sint Ikki and the question then becomes if we were in that congregation what would we do would we just observe what would we actually intervene and so let's let's get into the study of chapter 4 I'll just say a quick prayer and then we'll begin our Heavenly Father we come before you we just thank you so much Lord for your word your word of truth we thank you for this wonderful letter that Paul wrote to the a beautiful congregation of Philippi and we thank you for what we can learn from this letter and pray Lord that this evening as we go through the final chapter of the book of Philippians that you would help us to grasp as much as we can from it and that what we learn we would actually put into practice that it would transform us and make us better children better Christians that are followers of our Lord Jesus Christ we praise you lord and ask your blessing now in Jesus name Amen so I mentioned that we're going to be looking at the last chapter of the book of Philippians

before we do that I just want to remind you of the the central scripture in this book are the central verse and that's verse 27 where he is asking the congregation in Philippi to ensure that their conduct is fitting for their knowledge of the gospel that this good news that Jesus Christ brought us is so profound that it should change completely the way we behave and that's what Paul was requesting from the church at Philippi that even though he couldn't get to them he wanted to hear that their conduct matches the gospel of Christ now there were some risks that the congregation was facing and just to remind you about those risks the first one was in Chapter 1 there was external persecution that that Paul warned them that they shouldn't be terrified of their adversaries and so that was we saw that in chapter 1 this external persecution on the church and and he showed them how to how to handle that then in chapter 2 we saw another risk or another threat and that was internal strife and he showed them that the way to handle that is to put on the mind of Christ and to ensure that everybody is esteeming others better than themselves and they're willing to humble themselves and sacrifice themselves for the welfare and benefit of others if they do that that will eliminate the risk that comes from internal strife which is actually the greater risk it's a greater risk than external persecution external persecution tends to bind the church and strengthen the church whereas internal strife is what destroys the church and then the the third risk was an approaching risk and that was the threat of the Judaizers people who were

going around there were Christians there were Jewish Christians and they were basically going around saying that the sacrifice of Christ was not enough that in addition to the sacrifice of Christ to really obtain salvation they had to observe the law and specifically they had to be circumcised and Paul was basically inoculating the congregation against this threat and telling them that there is there these are enemies of the cross of Christ that that we must really understand how profound the sacrifice of our Creator was and not to attach anything to that that that bet enables us to have this free gift of salvation so he's covered these three risks and of the three the second one is is really the the big one and and now he's wrapping up the letter in chapter 4 and it actually is going to address this second risk of internal strife more specifically in chapter 2 he's addressing it generally now in chapter 4 he's going to be very specific and again appeal to them to fulfill his instruction in verse 27 which is to ensure that their conduct becomes the gospel of Jesus Christ so let's begin then in verse 1 of chapter 4 where we see he says therefore as he concluded now my brethren dearly beloved he really loved this congregation the brethren here and not just that he loves them they are longed for he longs to be with them again he really misses them and misses the support and love that they enjoyed that mutual support that they had for one another so their beloved and longed for and again that goes back to the beginning of the chapter or the beginning of the book chapter 1 where the letter is to all the saints at Philippi with the Deacons and the

bishops

so he's communicating to everybody my joy and Crown so this is just there there is so much joy whenever he thinks of this congregation but not just joy there are also his crown that he is just so excited about presenting this congregation to Jesus Christ on the the final day of the Day of Judgment Christ returns and and he just knows this is his reward this is his fruit this is the fruit of his labor and so he asked them in this way stand fast in the Lord what which way so stand fast well everything that we covered in Chapter 1 how to deal with external threats of persecution everything he covered in chapter 2 how to deal with internal strife everything he covered in chapter 3 how to deal with those Judaizers with false doctrine enemies of the cross of Christ everything that he taught them of how to address all of these threats that could destroy them in this way stand fast in the Lord my dearly beloved verse 2 I am basking I beseech you and I beseech you Cinti II so he's requesting each one specifically this is really interesting we we go from a letter that he's speaking to everyone where now he is targeting specifically to individuals in the congregation calling them out by name and pleading with them is not just IBC geo dia and center key it's I beseech you dia and I beseech you cinta key that they be of the same mind in the Lord the same mind that he said so stand fast in the Lord that same mind that of the mind of Christ who came down from heaven and put others ahead of himself who didn't think it was robbery to be equal with God but instead took on the form of a servant and was obedient unto death and not just

any death with the death of the cross
that kind of mind that's the mind that
he wants both of these to have obviously
there's some sort of vainglory that
these women are concerned about and he's
asking them please let it go let it go
but he doesn't stop there again this is
a letter to everybody to the whole
congregation and suddenly here in
chapter 4 takes a sharp turn and it's
pinpointing and targeting specific
individuals so first the idea and sin
segi and now in verse 3 very interesting
I entreat you also true yoke fellow who
is this who is this true fellow servant
I'm asking you as well
so I'm asking them but I'm also asking
you and remember this is the blueprint
for a healthy congregation so when you
see people fighting in your congregation
what do you do you there there's
brethren that are fighting you know
maybe they're not fighting physically
but they're fighting mentally
emotionally spiritually you've got
brethren who are not speaking to one
another they're disrupting the
congregation
did we just sit idly by and watch or do
we see ourselves striving together
working together working our salvation
out together as a congregation and do we
realize this is unacceptable there's
something that has to be done here and
so what Paul is doing here is he's
calling each individual as I believe
what he's doing here he's calling each
individual in the
congregation to account anything don't
don't sit by and think that this has
nothing to do with you you are working
out your salvation together and here
these two women by the way and we'll see
here these women are prominent women in

the congregation I'm going to say this over and over again we cannot oppress our women and a lot of men have this mistaken view that women must be seen but not heard and women aren't must be subjugated and only men matter clearly here when you read this he says I'm intrigued in treating you also through fellow-servant help those women which labored with me in the gospel they were my partners in this labor with Clement also and with other my fellow laborers whose names are in the book of life so these women obviously were prominent women in the congregation women of some level of leadership and influence and now they're in conflict and he's calling them out specifically but if we were in the congregation he's calling us out specifically as well and and this actually when you see this I entreat you also true yoke fellow it actually puts me in mind of a poem which you've probably heard but let's let's read it in this context where he says everybody somebody anybody in nobody a team let's say a congregation had four members called Everybody Somebody Anybody and nobody there was an important job to be done that is to end the conflict between yo dia and sin Tiki everyone was sure that somebody would do it anybody could have done it but nobody did it somebody got angry about that because it was everybody's job everybody thought anybody could do it nobody realized that's everybody's job everybody wouldn't do it it ended up that everybody blames somebody when nobody did what anybody could have done and I think this reality of how human beings work is what Paul has in mind when he calls out the true yoke fellow and I think that that true yoke fellow

is anyone who is a true servant of God in that congregation it's like you know in project management when you want and when a task has to be done you don't say you know who's accountable everybody because then nobody's gonna do it you have to make one person accountable call that person up by name and say you're responsible for getting this done you may not have to do it but you're accountable for getting it done and here he's putting the accountability on every individual in the congregation don't sit idly by while these women mess up and then this this term or this phrase at the end that these women along with the other fellow servants their names are in the book of life or in the book of the living this is quite scary that he's saying help these women why because their names are in the book of life what what does that mean well let's go to Revelation where it shows us that he that overcomes shall be clothed in white raiment and Christ says and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life but I will confess his name before my father and before the angels in the Greek that I will not blot out his name out of the book of life it says here okay MA excellent so excel it's all to anima of two acctaste the blue tastes OS this word excel itself which translates wipeout in the Greek what it means is that there's something there and you completely remove it you completely exit out scratch it out wipe it out so that when you're done there's no evidence that it was there that's what ex illipe soul means and Christ is saying I personally will Excel each soul or or well not in this case if you overcome

I will not excel Eve so your name out of the book of life
I won't take your name out of the book of life what that says to us is there's going to be a lot of names in the book of life and Christ for those who overcome he will not take our names out of the book of life which clearly by implication that there are going to be names in the book of life that Jesus Christ Himself will personally take out and when he takes them out there'll be no evidence that they were ever there I mean that is absolutely terrifying here in chapter 20 of Revelation the book of Revelation he says and whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire and they went into non-existence so the book of life the book of the living the book of the everliving is a book that it's the transition between this mortal life and eternity and our names have to be in that book in order to transition into eternity and it appears very clearly that those of us who are baptized and who've repented and who received the Holy Spirit upon the reception of the Holy Spirit our names are written in the book of life but if we fail to overcome and it looks to me like there are two ways we can fail or maybe three ways

=====Quiz# 1

one is personal failure we just we do not overcome our personal character fail of flaws the second is that we deny Christ before men as Christ tells us of the kind of persecution that is going to come on those who are faithful to him he says if you confess me before men I will confess you before the Angels and also he says in Revelation 3 and my father

so he'll confess if we deny him before
men he says he'll deny us so we must be
faithful no matter what and the third is
what yo dia and Sint iki are involved in
and that is traumatizing
the people of God that anyone who
touches God's people must answer to God
personally and so here in Matthew 18 he
says but whoso shall offend one of these
little ones which believe in me so any
believer it were better for him that a
millstone were hanged about his neck and
that he were drowned in the depth of the
sea

I think brethren that we take conflict
in the church far too lightly I think we
take our you take each other for granted
and we need to get to a place where we
realize that God loves Christ Christ
loves the church and as the father loves
Christ that's how Christ instructed us
to love each other
so we are the Bride of Christ we are the
body of Christ and we cannot develop the
the the man doesn't hate his own body
and and I think we think we can get away
with hating each other which which the
scripture refers to as murder and think
that Wilf will still be in the kingdom
when the scripture makes it very clear
he that does not love his brother is a
liar and the only way we know that we've
passed from death into life is that we
love the Brethren and so these are the
three things moral fatal failure to
overcome personal flaws deny if denying
the faith and
persecuting traumatizing the body of
Christ and that's why Paul says to the
Philippians work out your salvation
together work it out together with fear
and trembling with phobia and trauma
like you're dealing with the people of
God so you need to be very very careful

here and so here he's telling yo dia and
Sint icky to get over it whatever it is
get over it put on the mind of Christ
and it won't be a problem
and everyone else who's standing by and
watching this don't watch as these two
women who have labored with Paul who
have done a lot of good for the church
and for the work of God don't stand by
and watch why they just while they
destroy themselves while they say they
love God but they hate their brother
intervene intervene and don't allow them
to have their names scratched out of the
book of life so that it appears as if it
was never there continuing then he so
that that's not he moves on so that was
really the personal application of what
he was talking about conceptually in
Chapter 2 which was the biggest risk
that the congregation faced and that was
internal strife and division and then he
says rejoice in the Lord always and
again I say rejoice in this I haven't
done the the count of it
but if you analyze this letter to
Philippians there are two things that
really jump out one is how much joy is a
part of this letter you need over and
over and over again Paul is saying
rejoice have joy in the Lord and he has
joy and joy joy joy so constantly
repeatedly he says rejoice in the Lord
and then the other thing is Christ how
much Christ is repeated in this letter
so joy and Christ's joy in Christ and I
think anybody who wants to say that
Christ is not the center of the gospel
you have to read Philippians and I think
you'll have a wreath
that God is doing all he can to bring
everybody to Christ and then when
everybody is has come to Christ Christ
turns us all over to the Father and so

this is all about joy in Christ let your moderation be known unto all man the Lord is at hand be careful for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with Thanksgiving let your requests be known unto God and the peace of God which passes all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus very interesting here verse 5 moderation one of the fruits of the spirit self-control verse 6 faithfulness one of the fruits of the spirit verse 7 peace one of the fruits of the spirit in fact verse four joy one of the fruits of the spirit so here as we allow the Holy Spirit to work through us we see the fruits of the spirit emanating from us there is joy there's self-control especially as we realize the Lord is at hand and then we're careful for nothing so again there is this persecution that's on the church anything don't worry about it don't don't worry about it in everything by prayer and supplication so so gula in in John 15 Christ says I am The True Vine and my father is the husbandman and he wants it it's his will that we bear fruit much fruit and as we bear fruit he will prune us so that we bear even more fruit and then he says in that chapter ask what you will and you will receive because it's his father's will our father's will that we bear fruit so here he's saying don't don't worry God is with you and Christ Himself said I'll be with you till the end of the age so with that knowledge as we're facing these different challenges we just go to God and we asked me to help he says anything that you need ask and you'll receive as long as it's within God's and God's will is that we bear fruit we

despite whatever persecution we may face
so we asked with prayer and supplication
with Thanksgiving so we acknowledge the
blessings that we do have we're there
the cup is half full not half empty and
so we're constantly acknowledging how
God is working in our lives and what we
do have and what we are grateful for and
we have joy it with what we have
while we're asking that he opens the
doors that we need in order to do this
work and preach the gospel and bear
fruit and that that fruit that we bear
shall remain so we shall have converts
all over the world and those converts
will in fact make it into the kingdom
that's the fruit that we must bear and
as we do this and realize that we're
operating in the will of God the peace
of God which passes all understanding
shall keep our hearts and minds through
Christ Jesus and Paul is modeling this
he's in Rome on trial maybe he's going
to be persecuted he's not quite sure are
not persecuted executed he's not quite
sure and yet he has this great peace and
there's great joy why because he's doing
this he's asking for what he needs
in fact he also said he was quite
confident that because of the because of
the fruit of his labor that he felt that
he would be released and he would be
able to return to Phillipi because he
knew that he was useful to God and he
was bearing good fruit so we must follow
this same example finally brethren and
so now he's sort of concluding and this
this is the bit from verse 27 of chapter
1 right through to verse 9 of chapter 4
all of that is sort of one profound
thought that that has to do with
ensuring that their behavior matches the
gospel of Christ and so now he's come
finally coming to a conclusion of that

verse in verse 27 and that's why I was saying earlier I think was in Episode one that I said we've got to be careful of scriptural amnesia where we read a scripture and then we forget what it says as we go on to the next verse and and and we've got to keep the Scriptures in context especially when we're reading letters from the Apostle Paul he can go for a very long time where he has one train of thought but because of these different chapter breaks and burst breaks we think that he's on to another thought and so from verse 27 of chapter one right through to verse 9 of chapter four he's dealing with one train of thought so now he's concluding it finally brethren whatsoever things are true whatsoever things are honest whatsoever things are just whatsoever things are pure whatsoever things are lovely whatsoever things are of good report if there be any virtue and if there be any praise think on these things and really what he's saying here again it's in the context going back to chip verse 28 of chapter 1 it's in the context of this persecution that is on the church and it could be a very depressing time if you were to look at the persecution for what it is rather than looking at it for what it is enabling and it's enabling them to come together in unity it's enabling them to bear fruit and so what Paul is really telling them here is think of the big picture think of the gospel think of the good news of Jesus Christ and as you meditate on that good news and the ultimate outcome of all of this it puts everything into context and this is where that that peace of God just it just didn't braces us and just enables

us to face anything calmly and
faithfully so think of the big picture
really meditate on the gospel of Christ
it's not saying just again just randomly
oh just think of good things you know
don't don't try to think of anything
that that's bad but we have to think
about the things that are bad but we
have to put them in the context of
Christ being the king
and the kingdom coming and ultimate the
ultimate good news of the kingdom of God
those things so think on these things
and then those things which you have
both learned and received and heard and
seen in me do again this goes back to
verse 27 of chapter 1 that your conduct
must match the gospel of the kingdom so
in verse 8 think of the good news think
of the gospel and then in verse 9 do it
and you actually have a model Paul is
saying and you've learned from me and
you've actually seen me do this follow
my example and in this way you can
fulfill my instruction to ensure that
your behavior is becoming of the gospel
of Christ and the God of peace shall be
with you this is just so encouraging and
so finally now we conclude the
instruction from Paul to the Philippians
the the blueprint on how to build this
model congregation and work together to
strive together to work out their
salvation now he switches topic and now
that introduces a new topic which is
sort of really the reason for the for
writing in the first place so the reason
for writing was they had the the the
congregation that sent him a care
package and it was just filled with
everything that he needed and he was
writing to say thank you and so now he
finally gets around to saying thank you
but but not before giving them this

wonderful instruction which we can really benefit from right through to verse 9 of chapter 4 so now he comes back to the the it comes to the reason for the letter but I rejoiced and again that word joy is just so much joy here from the Apostle and an instruction for them to have joy

well I rejoiced in the Lord greatly I reach out I was really happy to receive this care package from you and I rejoiced in the Lord the this this physical package that I received from you had huge spiritual implications and spiritual meaning and I rejoiced in the Lord when I received this package that now at the last your care of me has flourished again so the Philippians were always careful and caring for Paul and really showing him that care but then it stopped for a while and they weren't able to show the care and now the care returned and so and and and it's flourished it's not just like grudgingly it flourished for them we're in you were also careful what you lacked opportunity so there was this period where you couldn't care for me and you were you were still very caring in that period you just weren't able to get your you express your care to me now that period when you weren't able to care for me he says in verse 11 not that I speak in respect of want don't get me wrong don't give me head I don't want to make you feel guilty that you weren't able to care for me you know I'm just saying that there was a period where I didn't receive any care from you now during that period when I didn't receive any care from you

I'm not making any point here about the fact that I was in kiddin want or need why it wasn't an issue why because I've

learned in whatsoever state I'm in in that state to be content I have figured this out I I'm telling you that when you're in the Lord and you think on whatever things are true and lovely if there's any virtue when you think like this and you think of the ultimate good news then whatever state you're in you learn to be content because you just understand you're in God's will and this is this is where this is the the season that you're in right now and it's okay so so there was a period where you couldn't care me and I don't I'm not calling attention to the fact that I was in need because I wasn't why because I've learned to be in contempt in whatever state I'm in I figured out how to be abased Wow and I've also figured out how to abound so some people can't do either some people if they don't have anything they just moan and complain and they just so negative and just horror it's terrible but worse some people who do allowed who have lots they're horrible as well they become arrogant and puffed up and and and they lack care and concern for others and often this is the the curse of the Christian that when Christians are blessed they forget God and they don't pray as much they don't study as much and the thing they don't need God so sometimes it's actually better to be abased than to abound and Paul the same in either case whether I'm humiliated and I have nothing or whether I'm honored and I have everything I need I have figured out how to keep my Christian head on my shoulders how to keep my spiritual wits about me

=====Quiz# 2
everywhere and in all things I

am instructed both to be full and to be hungry it's fine either way both to abound and to suffer need so that period when you couldn't care for me and I had nothing I figured it out and I still had joy I hadn't I had no physical things but I had the joy in the Lord and now I've received this package from you and I've got everything I need and I've still figured out how to conduct myself in such a way that I don't shipwrecked myself and then he says here in verse 13

I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me this is such a beautiful scripture I think anybody who knows the Bible knows this scripture and we get a lot of inspiration from it in fact I think this is a to take a little moment to get some inspiration from this scripture let's take a look at this so I hope you found that inspiring I certainly did when I saw it this young man Stephen Curry in the NBA I think a couple of years ago he was the most valuable player and just really hard worker clearly a Christian and was inspired by this text he can do all things through christ with strengthens me and then certainly one of the high scorers in the NBA now is that what this scripture is talking about i think this is one of the most abused scriptures that we can do anything through Christ that strengthens me and you get a lot of inspiration from this and that's not at all what Paul was saying and I think what again we have to be careful of scriptural amnesia where we just take a verse of it you know these dualities chopping up these letters into chapters and verses is what enables us to just scoop in and scoop out just go in and grab a little

scripture and run away with it
if we didn't have this weed after
actually we would actually have to stop
and read the whole passage to see what
it's actually talking about and then
again if we look here at the context and
what we show actually go back to verse
10 we can pick up the context in verse
12 where he says I know both how to be
abased and I know how to abound
everywhere notice this and in all things
in all things I'm instructed both to be
full and to be hungry both to abound and
to suffer need I can do all things the
same all things through Christ with
strengthens me in other words everywhere
and in all circumstances I'm instructed
how to manage myself financially
and in verse 13 in all financial
situations I will be successful through
Christ that strengthens me so verse 13
is not about taking tall leaps and
making three-pointers and verse 13 is
not about you know being able to run a
hundred meters in under 10 seconds and
verse 13 is not about anything that we
think it's about unless we take it in
the context of verse 12 verse 13 is
about financial responsibility but if I
have a little bit I can get I can cut
back my expenses and I can figure out
how to manage with that and I have if I
have a lot I don't let that go to my
head I know how to manage that as well
so in in all circumstances I can manage
how through by keeping my spiritual head
on my shoulders through Christ which
strengthens me so this is what he's
telling them I didn't suffer Nate when
you couldn't care for me
I didn't suffer need because I learned
how to do how to do all things how to
manage in all circumstances through
Christ who strengthens me now not

withstanding so even though I I suffered
me and I knew how to manage through that
notwithstanding you've done well well
done congratulations this is why I
rejoiced in the Lord when I received
your care package you've done well that
you did communicate or you did
participate with my affliction
so you heard of my affliction you knew
that I was in poverty and you
participated you helped well done
now you Philippians know also that in
the beginning of the gospel when I
departed from Macedonia so he Macedonia
was the first place he went to outside
of Judea and that's where his uh
ministry to the Gentiles really began
and from there he then launched into the
Gentile world and he's saying you got
you you know the flu all of you know
that when I departed from Macedonia
Macedonia no church no congregation
participated with me as concerning
giving and receiving except you Wow
so the Philippians got it and they
participated in this work of preaching
the gospel Noah as he was starting up
all these other churches they basically
were taken from him but they weren't
helping but the Philippians they were
helping him reach all of these different
nations or our cities for even in
Thessalonica Thessalonica you sent once
and again unto my necessity so even when
he was in Thessalonica they were
supporting him and sending him care
packages and making sure that he had
what he needed so that he could preach
the gospel quite amazing this
congregation and he says not because I
desire a gift so you've done really well
and I congratulate you for supporting me
and I rejoiced in the Lord when I
received your care package

not because I desire a gift from you
it's not like oh great you thought of me
thanks for the gift I appreciate the
money or or whatever support you've
given to me that's not why but I desire
fruit that may abound to your account
you are my joy and my crown when I stand
before Christ I want to present you to
Christ as a chaste virgin without spot
and without wrinkle and having borne
fruit and so for you to participate in
this work with me then you are bearing
fruit the same fruit that I bear is to
your account so that I desire fruit that
may abound to your account
but for me I have all and I abound so
thank you so much you everything that
you've sent everything that I need and
III now if I was in a state of a
basement I was in a state of penury and
poverty now I have everything I'm full
thanks so much having received of a
preferred it is the things which were
sent from you
fantastic an odour of sweet smell a
sacrifice acceptable well pleasing to
God so he now lightens this care package
to incense and to a sacrifice to God so
it's the he's seeing everything he's
seeing through spiritual eyes and this
is how he manages to abate to be abased
and to abound that he looks at
everything through spiritual eyes and
and what he sees when he receives this
care package is not so much of things
that are in the package but the people
and the hearts and the minds of the
people behind it and the rewards of
those people that are participating with
him in preaching the gospel but my God
shall supply all your need according to
his riches in glory by Jesus Christ so
here and again this is another scripture
that can be abused where you'll have

false ministers basically saying if you give money to me God will give money to you so you've got a kind of a soul so your riches so for every every hundred dollars you give me God will give you a thousand dollars and there's a lot of churches that are becoming mega churches and becoming mega rich by abusing this scripture and Paul doesn't say that what he says is when you are participating with me in preaching the gospel then you are in the Father's will and it's the Father's will again going back to John 15 it's the Father's will that you bear much fruit so ask and you shall receive so once you're participating in this this path of preaching the gospel and bearing fruit for the

No then God's going to supply your need and he knows what you need he knows what I need in some cases like Paul it might be a basement so Paul needed to be abused for a period of time and he learned in that a basement so in the same way the Philippians who are helping him they may come to a season where economically they're impoverished and God knows that they need that so this is not a guarantee of financial wealth it is a guarantee however of the Father and Jesus Christ supporting those who are operating in their will and preaching the gospel and bearing the fruit of the gospel so that we can be we can have this peace that whatever we face we know the hairs on our head are numbered and God is looking after us and I think some of you may actually be wondering how you can support us if you are appreciating the work that we're doing here I'll just take a moment to say that you know if you do want to support us in this work we would gladly receive that support there's a lot of work to be done and few

resources and few people and we do not have a full-time ministry like a lot of other churches the majority of our ministers are all volunteers so whatever money we receive it goes into preaching the gospel and doing this work so Church of God International Canada appeal box three two zero zero nine RPO Northland London Ontario and five b5k four or you can just go online to CGI Canada org slash donations so we would certainly appreciate any support that you can give us as we preach the gospel of Jesus Christ going on now as we conclude the letter

he says now unto God our Father be glory for ever and ever for unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever amen salute every saint in Christ Jesus the brethren which are with me greet you and again Paul is under house arrest in Rome and there are brethren that are there with him and he sends their love and greetings to the Brethren there in Philippi all the saints salute you chiefly they that are of Caesars household and again Paul understands that it's God's will for him to bear fruit and so he's arrested he's there in Rome he's right in Caesars household and he's preaching the gospel and people are seeing that he is truly committed and Paul is seeing that oh this is an opportunity for me to take the gospel to Caesars household and he actually wins converts from the Roman guard and so he we now have brethren or email they have brethren there right in Caesars household and they sent their greetings to the Brethren in Philippi the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all amen

so such a beautiful letter and you know what I would encourage you now that

we've gone through these verses together
is to go back and read the letter in one
sitting just sit down and read the
letter in one sitting
understanding how all the verses tied
together and again you know from from
Chapter one how Paul is so confident
that the Philippians are gonna figure it
out he's praying for them he's seeing
signs of progress and he thought the
care package that he received from them
he sees the spiritual intent and the
character behind back the heart behind
it and he's praying for them and he's
saying always in every prayer of mine
for you all making requests with joy
this congregation was a source of joy
most of the congregations that the
Apostle looked after they were a source
of grief for the Apostle but this
congregation was a source of joy for
your fellowship your partnership in the
gospel from the first day until now
that's what he's talking about these
care packages that they were see that he
was receiving from them he wasn't
receiving this from any other
congregation but he was receiving it
from from the Philippians and they were
constant there was a period of time with
it for some reason they couldn't get to
him but they finally sent through a
preferred itis and they were able to get
there resumed their care for him and he
just sees like wow they really
understand they really get it they're
really behind him and so he's confident
of this very thing that he which has
begun a good work in you you plural the
congregation will perform it until the
day of Jesus Christ and I think brethren
this really is the blueprint for a model
congregation that we do not think
individualistically which is very hard

for us in North America especially coming out of the 60s and the 70s where it was all about me me me and you know if it feels good do it and it's just a real individualist individualism ethic in our society and it's hard for us actually to think congregationally collectively and and you see that when brethren are in a congregation and something upsets them and they just get up and walk out instead of working it out with fear and trembling and seeing your identity as part of a larger body and really loving that body and learning how to love each other that's that's really a big part of what we're involved in here and as we do that the Apostle is just again Philippians is all about joy rejoice and again I say rejoice and have this joy in Christ and Paul has this joy over the congregation and I think when we really understand the gospel of the kingdom of God we can't help but be filled with joy and we really understand Christ and his central role in the gospel and and his love for us again we can't help but be overjoyed so I certainly hope that you have enjoyed this study on the book of Philippians and again I will leave you with where we began with Paul began that let your conduct be as it becomes the gospel of Christ and I don't know if I'll get to visit you and your congregation but whether I come and see you or I'm absent that I may hear of your affairs that you stand fast in one spirit with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel what a wonderful letter I leave you with these parting words and I'm looking forward next week we're going to start another book and I'm not going to say right now I just want to make sure that this is

the book but I think you're gonna be really really fascinated especially today with what we're facing in society our civilization collapsing around us I'm gonna pick a book that is going to strengthen you inspire you and educate and inform you as to how to navigate in in a world that is just it's it's doing the 180 it's collapsing around us but we need not fear and if anything we should rejoice because the Lord is at hand god bless you I look forward to seeing you again next week

=====Quiz# 3