

Philippians #12
Philippians 4: 7-23
“A Full Measure Conclusion”

Like a well-written novel, the conclusion of Philippians moves rapidly tying up lots of details with action-packed encouragement and wisdom for life. Tom covers a large section quickly, but don't rush through the rich treasure of application found in these final verses!

Picking up the theme first seen in 1:27, Tom reminds us to let our lives be worthy of the gospel and to stand firm for the faith of the gospel. In what ways has the study of Philippians helped you to both walk worthy and to stand firm?

These closing verses are all Christ-centric, yet they also include several actions that we are responsible to take. Take time to focus on Christ and also on the accompanying action step.

- Verses 5-6a. The Lord is near, so don't be anxious.

How does a recognition of God's omnipresence minimize worry?

- Verses 6b-7. The peace of God guards our hearts and mind, so pray.

What specific issue can you place at God's throne through prayer?

- Verse 8. God provides that which is positive, so ponder.

Where does your mind drift? How can you be more intentional to concentrate on the things called out in this verse?

- Verse 9. The God of peace is with you, so practice what you have observed in others.

What qualities do you see in your spiritual mentors that you would like to be true of you? How can you put these into practice?

Tom mentioned that often we get distracted by “trivial pursuits.” How does Matthew 6:31-34 complement what Paul is saying in Philippians? What trivial pursuits do you need to relinquish?

One of Tom’s favorite concepts is that of “contentment” especially in light of the “yo-yo swings of life.” Think through the learning process of Philippians 4:11-13. How can you learn to tap into the strength of Christ? Why is contentment such an important attribute in both the best and the worst of times?

Paul was well supplied through the investment his friends in Philippi had provided for his ministry. And Paul promises in return that God will supply for their needs. Read 2 Corinthians 8 and pull out those things that made the churches in Macedonia such incredible examples of investing in God’s kingdom. Could these qualities be true of your investments?

Verse 23 closes with an emphasis on grace. It seems so appropriate that a letter of joy ends with grace. Conclude our study of Philippians with an expression of thankfulness to God for His grace and all that you have learned from this powerful letter. And, as Tom did with finding space for his carry-on, learn to express thankfulness for even the little things in life!