

Wednesday Evening Bible Study – Spring 2022
March 30th, 2022
Paul's Letter to the Philippians

Schedule (Tentative)

Week 10 (03/30): Philippians 4:1-9 (The God of peace)

Week 11 (04/06): Philippians 4:10-20 (Exhortation)

Week 12 (04/13): Philippians 4:21-23 (Wrap-up)

*******Week 13 (04/20): NO BIBLE STUDY**

*****NEXT STUDY: What Methodists Believe and Why it Matters**
- Beginning Wednesday, April 27th

Week 10 (03/30): The God of Peace

Prayer for Illumination – Read Together

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as your scriptures are read and your word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen

Philippians 4:1-9 – Exposition and Notes

For next week: ***Philippians 4:10-20***

Extra Notes:

Philippians 4:1 (humility)

“Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.”

1 Thessalonians 2:17-20

NOTE: For Paul, the “joy and crown” of his ministry was the churches and the people in those congregations. It was those relationships and the ways they reflected Jesus’ teaching and ethic in their lives that gave him joy and a reward for his labor.

As we imitate Paul (as Paul strives to imitate Jesus) who would we name as our “joy and crown”? Who reflects the fruits of our labor here on earth? Who do you long to see because you know when you will see them, they will give you joy because of the lives they are leading? Children, grandchildren, people you have mentored/trained, young people in our church community?

Philippians 4:2-3 (unity)

NOTE: 2 significant parts to Philippians 2 – first, when there is conflict it is surrounding disunity – this links back to one of Paul’s primary themes. His desire is for us to be unified in the “same mind in the Lord.” Reference back to Philippians 2:2 – “make my joy complete, be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.” Paul’s desire is not for us to be the same, but to be unified in love for one another and for Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-9 (integrity)

Character of followers of Jesus –

Rejoicing in the Lord – (joy)

Gentleness (cf. Galatians 5)

The Lord is near (expectation of God’s presence)

Do not worry (cf. Matthew 6:25-34)

Trusting the Peace of God that guards our hearts and minds

Wesleyan Means of Grace

Works of Piety

Individual Practices – reading, meditating and studying the scriptures, prayer, fasting, regularly attending worship, healthy living, and sharing our faith with others

Communal Practices – regularly share in the sacraments, Christian conferencing (accountability to one another), and Bible study

Works of Mercy

Individual Practices - doing good works, visiting the sick, visiting those in prison, feeding the hungry, and giving generously to the needs of others

Communal Practices – seeking justice, ending oppression and discrimination (for instance Wesley challenged Methodists to end slavery), and addressing the needs of the poor

For next week: ***Philippians 4:10-20***