

## Week #7 - Rejoicing in Sanctification

Philippians 4:2-23

### Weekly Study Guide:

<b>Day 1</b>	Read and Copy	Read and copy Philippians 4:2-23 in your own handwriting.
<b>Day 2</b>	Observe and Ponder	Re-read the Philippians passage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Make a note in your margins of what the passage tells us about God.</li><li>• Look up the definition of contentment. Think of what makes you content or what you think might make you content and write it in the margins.</li><li>• What is necessary for contentment given in this passage?</li></ul> Re-read the Philippians passage and write a one-sentence summary of the passage at the bottom of your handwritten page.
<b>Day 3</b>	Practice and Pray	Take time to answer the discussion questions provided to prepare for your group time on Thursday.  In your prayer time, consider starting with one thing to praise our God for that you learned about Him in this chapter.

### For Discussion:

1. Community Builder: In a world full of sadness and suffering, we are exhorted by Paul in 4:8 to think about things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, and praiseworthy. What is something that you have thought of this week that would fall into these 4:8 categories? Share it with your group to encourage them.
2. Paul begins this final section with an exhortation to his brothers and sisters, who he loves, who are his joy and crown, who are standing firm in the Lord (4:1). He addresses two women who love Jesus but are at odds with each other. What does he ask those around Euodia and Synthyche to do for them? How could these companions who are coming alongside these women help them to achieve that goal?
3. Being a peacemaker is no easy task, but in Proverbs 12:20, it states, "There is deceit in the hearts of those who plot evil, but joy for those who promote peace." With the work of promoting peace, there is joy. What does Paul exhort the Philippians to rejoice in according to 4:4? What is some of the fruit of this joy in the Lord (4:5-9)?

4. Living a life in line with the gospel produces in us fruit that makes us more and more like Christ. We have received our salvation for our sins (past) and look forward to our glorification with Christ when He returns (future), but Christ is at work in our hearts in the present, which is called sanctification. Look up the definition of sanctification and write it below:
  
5. Sanctification is the process of God at work in us to make us more like Himself, to make us whole and complete. What do the following verses teach us about our sanctification:
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:23
  
  - 1 Corinthians 6:11
  
  - John 17:13-19
  
6. **Read Romans 7:15-24.** The work of sanctification in our lives is a struggle! Yet we are given a promise in Philippians 1:6. Write out the verse with the promise below. How can this promise be a comfort to us in the present?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. God is not only the means of our sanctification but also our provision. Like Paul we might be in want or have an abundance, be hungry or be satisfied in different seasons, yet he learned the secret to contentment. What is that secret according to Philippians 4:11-13? How can you live out that secret in your own life in your current season?

**Put it into Practice:**

8. Taking time to look back over Philippians 4:2-4:23, make a note of what you learned about the character of God this week. Given the truth you know about His character, what is one way that truth will change the way you live this week? If you are comfortable, share this with your group to encourage one another and to help hold one another accountable to living in that way this week.

9. As we close our time together in Philippians, what is something that surprised you in our study? What encouraged you? What has God taught you that you will take with you?

**Prayer:**

One of the gifts that we have that we can give one another is to hold each other up in prayer. Record ways that you can be praying for your sisters this week, and then pray for them this week.

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