**PHILIPPIANS**

Class Study - 4:2-4:23

1. 4:2 Disagreements happen in the church. See Acts 15:36-41. What do you suppose Paul learned from his disagreement with Barnabas? What is good about his appeal in verse 2? What incentive is he holding before them in verse 2?
2. 4:3 In this verse he uses the phrase “at my side in the cause of the gospel.” How might that motivate these ladies to work on reconciling? How does it encourage the other workers to feel like partners in helping the ladies to come to some agreement?
3. 4:3 How is the phrase “whose names are in the book of life” the ultimate motivation for unity among them?
4. 4:5 In difficult times, our joy is not always visible to others; yet acts of gentleness to others can be seen. What is the value of “gentleness” in our lives? What are some situations where might practice gentleness?
5. 4:6 “Anxious” here means self-centered, counterproductive worry. How can the ideas shared in the rest of the verse be helpful in getting rid of anxiousness? What are some things that you do to get over anxiety?
6. 4:7 Peace of God” is not merely a psychological state of mind, but an inner tranquility based on peace with God – the peaceful state of those whose sins are forgiven. How can we receive this wonderful gift?
7. 4:8-9What are some daily applications you can make from the items listed in these two verses? How does “And the God of peace will be with you” show itself in our everyday lives?
8. 4:10-13 What concepts are there in these verses that speak to relying on the Lord for everything we need? What can you learn from this in your daily life?
9. 4:14-17 Why is giving so beneficial to not only the receiver but to the giver as well? How have you experienced that in your life?
10. 4:18-20 The phrase “a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice” has the OT background of a sacrifice that offered thanksgiving and praise. At the temple, sacrifices were made with sweet-smelling spices to remind the people that God was well pleased. It was not with the sacrifice itself that pleased God. It was with the people’s appeal to His mercy that made sacrifices sweet. How do the things Paul says and alludes in these verses make the activities of the Philippians smell sweat to God?
11. 4:21-23 Why is what Paul says in these verses so important for us to remember and imitate?