

Exhortations & Instructions



Phil 3:2-9

Exhortations and Instructions

- Nearing the end of the letter
- Paul turns from theology to practical implications
- Mixture of instructions and encouragements
- Structure:
 - Be in the same mind in the Lord (v2-3)
 - Best practices (v4-7)
 - Thinking and behaving (v8-9)

Be in the same mind as the Lord (v2-3)

- Specific instructions to Euodia and Synthyche
 - **Be in the same mind as the Lord**
- **mind** = “phroneo” (φρονεω)
- Paul uses Euodia and Synthyche as an actual example

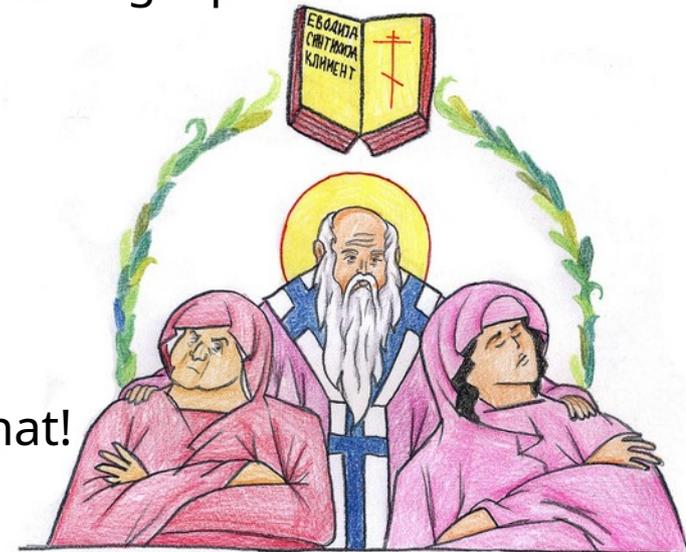
Recurring theme:

- Be of the *same mind* ... in full accord and of *one mind* (2:2)
- Let the *same mind* be in you that was in Christ Jesus (2:5)
- Let those of us who are a mature be of the *same mind* (3:15)

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the *same mind* in the Lord (4:2)

Be in the same mind as the Lord (v2-3)

- Nothing much is known about Euodia and Syntyche
 - But clearly important women in the leadership of the church of the Philippians
 - Struggled / contended alongside Paul in the work of the gospel
 - Together with Clement and other co-workers
 - Are in the book of life
- So they clearly valued by Paul
- But they must disagree about something.
 - Paul urges them to seek the Lord together about that!
 - Be in the same mind as the Lord



Be in the same mind as the Lord (v2-3)

- They do not do this on their own:
 - “Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women”
- Loyal companion?
 - Proper name Syzygus instead of meaning?
 - Never seems to have been used as a name
 - One of Silas, Luke or Timothy
 - But they are not in Philippi
 - Or Epaphroditus
 - As he carried the letter and is introduced in the letter (2:25-30)
 - And is Paul even recommending him as a leader giving him this charge?



Best Practices (v4-7)

- Rejoice in the Lord, always, again I will say, Rejoice (v4)
- Let your gentleness be known to everyone (v5)
 - Gentleness ~ “magnanimity” or “consideration for others”
 - Remind yourselves: The Lord is near
- Do not worry (v6)
 - Instead pray, ask and give thanks to God
- Then: Peace of God guard our hearts and minds (intellect) in Christ Jesus (v7)

Be Anxious For Nothing
but in everything, by prayer and
petition with thanksgiving, let your
requests be made known to God.

And the

*Peace
of God*

which surpasses all understanding, will
guard your hearts and your minds in

CHRIST JESUS
PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

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Thinking and behaving (v8-9)

Finally, brothers,
whatever is *true*,
whatever is *honorable*,
whatever is *just*,
whatever is *pure*,
whatever is *lovely*,
whatever is *commendable*,
if there is any *excellence*,
if there is anything *worthy of praise*,
think about these things.

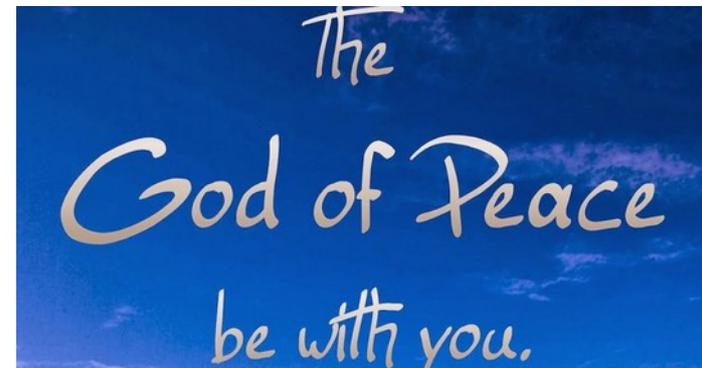
PHILIPPIANS 4:8

- Admirable qualities – thought by minds guarded
- Do not take them for granted – they are also from God
- Allow yourself to pay attention to them, think or even meditate
- As our thoughts drive our behaviours
- Also: generally regarded as good things in any society – helps us to make connections with those who do not know Jesus

Thinking and behaving (v8-9)

“Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you”

- Thinking about the good things of God, helps us to behave in the way that God wants us to behave
- Do what Paul has taught and shown
 - Imitate Christ by imitating Paul
 - Major theme of this letter
- => **The God of Peace will be with you!**



Conclusion

Paul urges the Philippians and us to take to heart to lessons of this letter:

- Be in the same mind in the Lord (v2-3)
 - And help each other with this
- Best practices (v4-7)
 - Rejoice, have considerations of others, pray and give thanks
- Thinking and behaving (v8-9)
 - Focus our minds on the good things in this world
 - Live in imitation of Christ

And the God of peace will be with us