



Galatians and Philippians

OASIS Session 10: November 20, 2022

Philippians 4; Wrap-up - the Joy of Unity in Christ

Review: Galatians and Philippians

- **Discussion Questions:**
 - What do the two books have in common?
 - How are they different?
 - Any key points that stood out?

The Fulcrum of Philippians: 2: 5-11

- Read the Text
 - Kenosis: *“he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself”*
- **“Kenosis”** comes from the Greek κενόω (kenóō), meaning “to empty out”.
 - Occurs five times (Romans 4:14, 1 Corinthians 1:17, 9:15, 2 Corinthians 9:3, Philippians 2:7)
- **Discussion Question: What is Paul’s ecclesiological point here - that is, his point about relationships within the church, and specifically about relations between Jewish and Gentile believers?**

Philippians 4

Six sections:

1. Vs. 1: really part of chapter 3. “you are my joy and crown”
2. Vs. 2-3: calling out Euodia and Syntyche for fighting
3. Vs 4-7: Rejoice! Rejoice! Trust God and be at peace
4. Vs 8-14: The secret of Paul’s joy
5. Vs. 15-20: Thanks for your gift - God will reward you
6. Vs. 21-23: Salutation

Discussion: Joy is a theme that runs through the book (see next slide) and is repeated four times in this chapter. Paul seems to see it as an antidote to dissension. But what is the secret to having joy, and why? Looking at three texts:

1. Vs 4-7
2. Vs 8-9
3. Vs 10-13

Joy and Rejoicing in Philippians. Paul:

- 1:4 prays with joy
- 1:18 rejoices that Christ is proclaimed
- 1:25 will remain living on earth, for the Philippians' joy in the faith
- 2:2 asks the Philippians to complete his joy
- 2:17–18 is glad and rejoices with the Philippians
- 2:28 sends Epaphroditus, that the Philippians might rejoice
- 2:29 tells the Philippians to receive Epaphroditus with joy
- 3:1 tells the Philippians to rejoice in the Lord
- 4:1 tells the Philippians they are his joy
- 4:4 tells the Philippians twice to rejoice in the Lord
- 4:10 rejoiced in the Lord at the Philippians' concern for him

Previewing the Advent Class

- Advent as a Kenosis Story
 - The infancy narratives are theology
- As Preparation for the Advent class:
 1. Read Chesterton's "*Glory to God in the Lowest*"
 2. Read the two infancy narratives in Matthew and Luke. Reflect on how different they are, with almost no duplication of stories between the two, and come prepared to discuss why this might be the case.