



## Philippians 4:1-13 - The Means of Mission

### Philippians 4:1-13

- We can only be **faithful** and **fruitful** in participating in God's mission in the world, if we do the following:

#### Philippians 4:1-3 – Stand firm and be at peace

- Vs 1 - Paul calls the Philippians his joy and crown. The most important thing in any church and ministry is God's people – not our name, how popular our ministry is, how big our building is, etc.
- He tells them to "stand firm in the Lord." Because of the trust of Chapter 3:20,21 – we can stand firm, knowing who Jesus is and whose we are!
- Vs 2-3 – He entreats (or persuades) two key sisters - Euodia and Syntyche to be united – "to agree in the Lord." He asks everyone to be peacemakers to help these women to be reconciled.

#### Philippians 4: 4 – Rejoice

- We rejoice "in the Lord" – because our joy comes from being in the Lord Jesus (see 1 Peter 1:8-9).  
It doesn't mean we won't suffer or go through many trials. Often God uses these trial to grow our faith in Him and to make us like Jesus in every way (see James 1:2-3). But such joy becomes our strength (Nehemiah 8:10).
- When are we to rejoice and for how long? Always. In other words, for all time.

#### Philippians 4:5-7 – Be Gentle and Pray

- Be gentle and moderate to others (vs 5a).
- Know that the Lord is near (vs 5b).
- Vs 6-7 "Don't worry about ANYTHING, but pray about EVERYTHING, with THANKSGIVING!"
- And God's peace will guard your thoughts and hearts.

#### Philippians 4:8-9 – Think about the things of God and practice them.

- Fill your mind with things that are pure, right, honourable and good. You become what you spend the most time thinking about!
- But not only think about them, practice them from learning from leaders like Paul.
- Vs 9 is all about discipleship and making other disciples!

#### 5. Philippians 4:10-13 – Be content

- There was a partnership between the church at Philippi and Paul. They cared for him and send gifts to support him in his ministry, especially now he was in prison.
  - But Paul tells them that he has learned in every situation to be content