

## PHILIPPIANS 7

1. How do we continue on this spiritual path that God has put us on?

-By continuing to read and study God's Word.

2. Do we Christians need encouragement?

-Yes, very much.

3. If we follow the example of another, what must we be sure of?

-That the example of the one we are following is the same example of Christ.

4. Who are those who are enemies of the cross of Christ?

-Their minds are on earthly things, and not eternal things.

-Their god is their stomach.

-Their destiny is destruction in the Lake of Eternal Fire.

5. Although we may have a home on earth, where is our best home?

-In heaven.

6. Who are those whose names are in the book of life?

-All Christians.

7. How is the Lord near?

-He is closer than breath itself.

8. Why is it important to understand that the Lord is near?

-If we can understand and remember that the God who has created the universe is near us and with us, this will help us to never be afraid or worry.

Let's read Philippians 4:8

8-Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

-God has given us our minds to think about good.

-God has given us our minds to think about God.

-Can bad thoughts come into our minds?

-Yes.

-What do we do when bad thoughts come into our minds?

-We can either allow the bad thoughts to continue or ask God to replace the bad thoughts with good thoughts.

-The Word of God says, "You do not have because you do not ask" (James 4:2).

-If we ask God to replace the bad thoughts with good thoughts, He will do it.

Let's read Philippians 4:9

9-Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

-Paul is asking the Christians in Philippi to follow his example.

-This is because Paul followed the example of the Lord Jesus Christ.

-The God of peace is with all Christians, yet we must allow Him to pour His peace into us.

Let's read Philippians 4:10

10-I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it.

-As we will read in verse 18 below, Epaphroditus brought to Paul gifts from the Christians in Philippi.

-These were not the first gifts because the Christians in Philippi had given Paul gifts before in the past.

Let's read Philippians 4:11-12

11-I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

12-I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of

being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

-Why should we Christians be content in every situation?

-Because this will allow our God to have His perfect way in our lives.

-If we are not content in every situation, then we will be losing the teaching that our God wants to give us.

-If we are not content in every situation, then we are saying to God that He has done something wrong.

Let's read Philippians 4:13

13-I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

-It is God who gives us strength when we have problems.  
-It is God who gives us strength when we are hungry.

-When we are weak, the strength of God becomes strong in us.

Let's read Philippians 4:14-16

14-Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles.

15-Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me

in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only;

16-for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need.

-When Paul and Silas were asked to leave Philippi, they went to Thessalonica.

-When they were in Thessalonica, the Christians in Philippi sent aid to them more than once.

Let's read Philippians 4:17-18

17-Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account.

18-I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.

-Instead of wanting their gifts, Paul wanted the Christians in Philippi to be rewarded by God.

-A true teacher of the Word of God will not work for gifts from people, but rather work for God.

-When we give a gift to others, it is like an offering to God which pleases God.

Let's read Philippians 4:19

19-And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

-Some people think that this verse teaches us that God will give us much money.

-This is not true.

-What does it mean that God will meet all of our needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus?

-It is true that God's physical resources are without end, and God does meet our physical needs from time to time.

-It is also true, however, that God's spiritual resources are also without end, and that God desires to meet all of our spiritual needs.

-We may look to God to provide our physical needs, yet we must look even more to God to provide our spiritual needs.

-Whenever we have a problem understanding God's Word, we must remember two truths:

- 1) That people are primarily spiritual beings.
- 2) That the meaning may be primarily spiritual.

-Here is an example:

-In John 6:53, the Lord Jesus said this:

-“Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.”

-Was Jesus teaching that we must physically eat His flesh and drink His blood?

-No.

-It is impossible for us Christians to physically eat His flesh and drink His blood.

-When many of Christ’s disciples heard this, they said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?” (Jn 6:60).

-What did Jesus mean by eating His flesh and drinking His blood?

-The teaching and meaning of Jesus’ words are spiritual.

-This is because God created all humans primarily as spiritual beings

-When we understand and believe that Christ sacrificed His flesh, and poured out His blood to save us, then we are spiritually becoming a part of His death to sin and resurrection to eternal life.

-This is the spiritual eating His flesh and drinking His blood which is celebrated with the Lord’s Supper.

-In Luke 22:19, the Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my

body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

-In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you” (Lk 22:20).

-The Lord’s Supper is simply a strong picture of not only remembering what Christ did for us on the cross, but also remembering that all true Christians are very much a part of His death and resurrection.

Let’s read Philippians 4:20-23

20-To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

21-Greet all God’s people in Christ Jesus. The brothers and sisters who are with me send greetings.

22-All God’s people here send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar’s household.

23-The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

-In verse 22 above, we understand that some of the workers of the king Caesar believed in Christ.

-This is because they are called “God’s people” sending greetings to their fellow Christians in Philippi.

-Finally, the letter to the Philippians and to all Christians comes to an end.