

here, we should rejoice in the Lord always. This rejoicing affords us the strength for the oneness spoken of in verses 2 and 3. In order for Euodias and Syntyche to think the same thing, it was necessary for them to learn to rejoice. Rejoicing in the Lord is also the secret of having the excellent characteristics listed in verses 5 through 9. If we would have the virtues found in these verses, we need to rejoice in the Lord. To rejoice in the Lord is a very important matter.”

(The Life-study of Philippians, Msg. 26, p. 224)

Note: **Bold type** and/or underlining have been added for emphasis in the above verses and quotations.

Suggested Supplementary Reading

- 1) The Holy Word for Morning Revival — Philippians: Week 6, Day 1
- 2) Regarding our gifts — The Life-study of 1 Corinthians, Msg. 57; & The Life-study of Romans, Msg. 26
- 3) Regarding ‘the ministry,’ ‘my ministry,’ and ‘your ministry’ — The Life-study of 2 Corinthians, Msg. 27, pp. 235-237

Our Experience in the Church Life

Prayer Burdens

1. Pray for the church finance, in particular that the saints offerings would be adequate to cover the church expenses.
2. Pray for the conferences that are occurring on Easter weekend, April 6-8. Church life workshops will be held in Toronto at hall 1 on Saturday afternoon and evening for the English speaking. There will be a blending weekend at Cornwall for the Chinese speaking as well as a conference in Cleveland for the Chinese speaking. Pray that all these conferences would uplift the saints into a richer and fuller church life.
3. Continue to pray for the positive advancement of the church in Toronto. May the Lord bring us into new opportunities for the spread of His kingdom in this city.

Announcements:

General

1. **The Donation Receipt Request Forms and Receipts are available**
The Donation Receipt Request Forms can be picked up at your respective Service Office or from your district leader. Refer to News and Fellowship on this site to see how to process the form (if you have questions).

The official Donation Receipts are also available for pickup at the respective Service Office.

2. **Apr 7-8 Church Life Workshop**
The Church in Toronto will host a Church Life Workshop at Hall 1 for the English speaking saints. The schedule is:
Apr 7 Sat
3:00 - 4:30pm singing and intro to workshops
4:45 - 6:15 pm workshops
6:30 - 7:30 pm Love Feast
7:30 - 9:00 pm results from workshops presented
Apr 8 Lord's Day
10:00 - 12:00 share one or two main points from Sat. fellowship which are practical points that can be readily implemented.

The church in Toronto

Philippians Week 18

Apr 2 - Apr 14, 2007

Having Christ as the Secret of Sufficiency (1) — Thinking the Same Thing and Rejoicing in the Lord

Weekly Bible Reading:

Philippians 4:1-4

Hymns:

288; 302; 312; 863; 867; 891; 890

Monday & Tuesday

Verses for Morning Revival

Philippians 4:1

- 1 So then, my brothers, beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, in the same way stand firm in the Lord, beloved.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

- 13 Watch, stand firm in the faith, be full-grown men, be strong.
- 14 Let all your matters be done in love.

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

In Philippians 4:1 “Paul speaks of the brothers as the ‘beloved and longed for,’ his ‘joy and crown.’ These words indicate that Paul was filled with emotion, full of feeling. Twice he uses the word beloved. After referring to the believers as his beloved, he again addresses them as beloved ones. The believers were his joy within and his crown without. Joy is inward, whereas a crown is manifested outwardly. In this verse Paul was saying that the believers were both his inward happiness and his outward glory.

“In 4:1 Paul charges the believers to ‘so stand firm in the Lord.’ The expression ‘so stand’ means to stand in a particular way, in the way presented in the foregoing chapters. In this verse Paul was urging the believers in Philippi to stand in the way he had shown them.”

(Witness Lee, Life-study of Philippians, Msg. 26, p. 221)

Stand Firm in the Lord – Stand Firm in the Faith

1. Our Firm Standing in Christ's Redemption

“...We do not stand on sinking sand—we stand on Christ's redemption. Christ has redeemed us, and now His redemption is our solid standing...”

“...Our standing is by faith. In 2 Corinthians 1:24 Paul says, ‘In faith you stand.’ In Romans 5:2 and Galatians 5:1 Paul speaks of standing. Romans 5:2 says, ‘Through whom also we have the access by faith into this grace in which we stand.’ Galatians 5:1 says, ‘For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore.’

“I have known some Christians whose faith was incomplete. They had what we

may call a one-tenon faith. On the one hand, they believed, but on the other hand, they doubted. They seemed to say both yes and no at the same time...To be shaken is to doubt. It is to question whether it is right to believe in Christ. Those with this kind of faith, a faith of one tenon, cannot stand firmly. Both for standing and for walking we need two feet...We must have a complete faith in the redemption of Christ. Then we shall have the proper standing.

"When I was in organized Christianity, I saw many so-called believers who did not have a proper faith. Some seemed to be standing not even on one foot but on one toe. They claimed to be Christians, yet they did not believe many things that are in the Bible. We, however, believe whatever the Bible says. Thus, our faith has two feet, two tenons. To have complete faith means to believe everything in the Bible without a trace of doubt."

2. Our Experience of True Faith and of Doubts

"Perhaps you feel that because you sometimes have doubts, you do not have true faith. In the past I also had doubts. However, if you consider your situation, you will see that what you doubted was your experience, not the Bible. It is common for believers to have doubts about their Christian experience. Some may question if they have really been forgiven or regenerated. Others may doubt that they love the Lord. There was a time when I had doubts about my love for the Lord. One day I knelt down and told Him that I asked heaven and earth to witness that I loved Him with all my heart. I went on to say, 'Lord, You have heard my word. From now on I shall never doubt that I love You.' Nevertheless, as soon as I finished my prayer, I began to doubt once again. I did not doubt the Word of God; I doubted my experience of loving the Lord.

"In the past I also had doubts about the way of the church in the Lord's recovery. When I decided to take this way, I had the assurance that it was right. I had determined that to be a proper human being I must be a Christian, and that to be a Christian I must take the way of the church. Otherwise, it seemed to me that it was meaningless to live. Sometimes I praised the Lord for showing me the way of the church. I thanked Him not only that I was a Christian, but also that I was one taking the church way. However, when other Christians refused to greet me because I had turned from the denominations to the church, I began to doubt whether or not I was actually taking the right way. I asked myself, 'If the church is right, why don't other Christians greet me?' What I doubted was not the Bible—it was my experience.

"Because we have genuine faith, we do not doubt the Bible. For example, we do not doubt that God created the heavens, the earth, and us. Our faith is of two tenons, and we are standing steadfast in Christ's redemption. Praise the Lord...! We do not simply stand upon the redemption of Christ; we stand in it. Our faith is firmly set in...Christ's redemption.

"We in the local churches have a firm and stable standing. We all are standing in Christ's redemption. The reason the churches in the Lord's recovery are so strong is that we all have a firm standing. Many Christians in other groups, however, can easily be shaken. They do not have a firm standing.

"Our firm standing is demonstrated when it is necessary for us to have a funeral.

highly of yourself. This is a problem to the church life. If we are to have the proper church life, the first thing that must be torn down is the high opinion that we have of ourselves. We need 'to think so as to be sober-minded.' If you think highly of yourself, your mind is not sober or normal. It means that you have an abnormal element in your mind. Your mind needs to be adjusted and renewed, and all the negative elements in it need to be swallowed up by the life of Christ. Then your mind will be renewed and sobered. Furthermore, we need to think 'as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.' It is not difficult to understand the meaning of 'a measure of faith.' How much God has transfused and infused Himself into you constitutes your measure of faith. Your measure of faith equals the amount of God's element which has been transfused into you. That is the faith which God has allotted to you, and you need to consider yourself soberly according to that measure."

"'For as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and severally members one of another' (vv. 4-5). We need to realize that the many members of the one Body have different functions. Two young sisters may be very close to one another in age, but still have different functions. What one sister can do the other sister cannot do. If we would all realize this, we would not think so highly of ourselves, but would respect others. I hope that so many of the young brothers could say to one another, 'Brother, what I can do, you cannot do, and what you can do, I cannot do.' We all have different functions."

"Verse 5 says, 'So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and severally members of one another.' This means that though we are many yet we are one Body. We are many members, not many separate units. As members, we have to coordinate with each other that we may be a living, functioning Body. If we do not cooperate with each other, then we are detached members, and the Body life cannot be practically realized..."

"...In verse 6 Paul says that we have 'gifts that differ according to the grace given to us.'...grace is simply God in Christ as our enjoyment. When this grace, this divine element, which is the divine life, comes into our being, it brings with it certain skills and abilities which are the gifts. The gifts, the spiritual abilities, come from the divine element which we have enjoyed. As you enjoy God, receiving and assimilating His divine element into your being, out of this divine element proceeds some gift, skill, or ability. These gifts differ according to the divine element which we have enjoyed and which we have assimilated into our being. The grace given to us refers to the grace we have enjoyed and assimilated. Therefore, the gifts mentioned in Romans 12 are the gifts of grace in life.'

(Witness Lee, Life-study of Romans, Msg. 26, pp. 303-306)

The Importance of Rejoicing in the Lord

"In 4:4 Paul says, 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.' Whether or not the believers were dissenting, they all had to rejoice. Those who would not rejoice were wrong, but those who could rejoice were right. I do not believe, however, that dissenting ones can rejoice very much. According to Paul's word

administration, which is for the fulfillment of His eternal purpose.

“In the past we have pointed out that in the New Testament there is just one ministry, and now we are speaking of ministries. When we say that there is only one ministry in the New Testament, we mean that all the gifted persons should minister the same thing--Christ and the church. This is the unique ministry. However, the ministries in 12:5 refer to the services of the different members of the Body. The various members of the Body have their different ministries, their different services.”

“In verse 7 Paul says, ‘But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for profit.’ All the different gifts are the manifestation of the Spirit; that is, the Spirit is manifested in the believers who have received the gifts. Such manifestation of the Spirit is for the profit of the church, the Body of Christ. For profit means for the growth in life of the members of the Body of Christ and for the building up of Christ’s Body.”

“We have pointed out that in these verses Paul gives nine illustrations of the manifestation of the Spirit. The gifts of the Spirit are unlimited. When we have the gifts, we have the manifestations; when we exercise the gifts, we have the ministries of the Lord; and then these ministries will accomplish the work of God to carry out His administration.”
(Witness Lee, Life-study of 1 Corinthians, Msg. 57, pp. 514-515, 518)

Saturday

Verses for Morning Revival

Romans 12:3

3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to every one who is among you, not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think, but to think so as to be sober-minded, as God has apportioned to each a measure of faith.

Colossians 4:17b

17 ...Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you fulfill it.

Philippians 4:4

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

Genuine Yokefellows – Contending Together in the Gospel, cont’d

.Contending Together – Being Assisted to Each Fulfill Our Indispensable,

God-given Ministry, cont’d.

b) Exercising Our Gifts According to Our Measure of Faith

“Romans 12:3 says, ‘For I say through the grace given to me to everyone among you, not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think, but to think so as to be sober-minded, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.’ In this verse we come to a very practical point. Everyone of us thinks highly of himself. Outwardly you may appear to be humble, but inwardly you think quite

Friends and observers who have attended our funerals have sometimes been surprised that there is not much weeping. At most funerals there is weeping without restraint or control. In our funerals, on the contrary, we do not weep very much, because we have a firm standing. We believe in God and we believe in His Word. This gives us a firm, unshakable standing.”

(Witness Lee, Life-study of Exodus, Msg. 98, pp. 1144-1147)

Wednesday

Verses for Morning Revival

Philippians 4:2

2 I exhort Euodias, and I exhort Syntyche, to think the same thing in the Lord.

Philippians 1:27

27 Only, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, that whether coming and seeing you or being absent, I may hear of the things concerning you, that you stand firm in one spirit, with one soul striving together along with the faith of the gospel,

Philippians 2:2

2 Make my joy full, that you think the same thing, having the same love, joined in soul, thinking the one thing,

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

Thinking the Same Thing

In Philippians 4:2 “Paul continues, ‘I beseech Euodias, and I beseech Syntyche, to think the same thing in the Lord.’ This verse indicates that these two sisters were dissenting from one another. They were not of the same mind. Hence, there was the exhortation to strive together with one soul for the gospel (1:27), to be joined in soul, thinking the one thing (2:2), and to have the same mind to pursue after Christ (3:14-15).

“According to verse 3, these were very good sisters who had been helpful to Paul. Paul says of them that they ‘contended with me in the gospel, with both Clement and the rest of my fellow-workers, whose names are in the book of life.’ The Greek word rendered ‘contended’ is an athletic term; it means to labor with, to strive together for, to wrestle in company with, as a team of athletes. These sisters were a help to Paul and the other workers, contending with them in the gospel. However, even these sisters needed help to be one by thinking the same thing in the Lord. According to the foregoing chapters, to think the same thing is related to pursuing Christ in order to gain Him and enjoy Him in full. Euodias and Syntyche were not pursuing Christ to the uttermost. Any who are tempted to be dissenting should heed Paul’s word to these sisters to think the same thing.”

(Life-study of Philippians, Msg. 26, pp. 221-222)

Thursday

Verses for Morning Revival

Philippians 4:3

- 3 Yes, I ask you also, genuine yokefellow, assist them, since they contended with me in the gospel, as well as with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

Genuine Yokefellows – Contending Together in the Gospel

1. As Fellow Workers – Assisting One Another to be Yoked to Christ, Having the Mind of Christ

“In 4:3 Paul uses the term yokefellow. In ancient times farmers used two oxen to pull a plow. The term yokefellow thus refers to being yoked together with another to bear a common burden. In writing to the Philippians, Paul was seeking a genuine yokefellow, one who would bear the same burden as he, under the same yoke. If we do not seek Christ to the uttermost, we have not yet been yoked. Rather, we are still quite free in our thinking. If we have truly been yoked, we shall think the same thing as Paul. Those who had not been yoked together with Paul would not have been able to help him with Euodias and Syntyche. Paul was burdened to help these sisters to think the same thing – to pursue after Christ that they might gain Him and experience Him. But because Paul was in a Roman prison far away from Philippi, he needed someone there in Philippi to be yoked together with him to bear this burden. Paul expected that among the saints in Philippi there would be at least one who was the same as he was in pursuing Christ. Because Paul had been yoked, he had no freedom in his thought or concept. His mind had been yoked to think the one thing.

“At any cost and by any means, Paul wanted to pursue Christ to the uttermost. This was his mind. Hence, his mentality had been absolutely yoked by Christ. Apart from Christ, he had no liberty to think anything. His mind had been fully yoked by Christ, in Christ, and with Christ. As he was writing to the Philippians, he was looking for at least one saint who could work together with him to help the two dissenting sisters to think the same thing. This was a very practical word with which to conclude this Epistle.

“In speaking of a ‘genuine yokefellow,’ it seems as if Paul was saying, ‘I have written you this Epistle, but I don’t have the assurance that this letter will do the full job. I need someone among you who is genuinely yoked under the same mind to seek Christ. Such a one will be able to help these sisters to think the same thing. Anyone who wants to help them must first be yoked under the same mind as I have.’ To have ‘this mind’ and ‘to think the same thing’ is to be a genuine yokefellow.

“Today there is also the need for a genuine yokefellow. The Lord’s ministry is hated and rejected by many. You may accept this ministry and even love it, but to love the ministry is one thing, and to be yoked under the mind to pursue Christ is another. We all need to be yoked by having ‘this mind.’

“Considering Paul’s word about a genuine yokefellow should remind us not to read the Bible in a superficial way and not to take things for granted. Paul’s expression ‘genuine yokefellow’ may seem insignificant; actually it is extremely

important, for it is related to his charge to the Philippian believers to have this mind, to think the same thing, even to think the one thing. After issuing this charge, he mentions two sisters who were dissenting. Then he goes on to urge someone to labor together with him as a genuine yokefellow to assist Euodias and Syntyche to think the same thing, to turn from their dissension and set their minds on the pursuing of Christ.”

(ibid., Msg. 26, pp. 222-224)

Friday

Verses for Morning Revival

Philippians 4:3a

- 3 Yes, I ask you also, genuine yokefellow, assist them, since they contended with me in the gospel...

1 Corinthians 12:4-6, 11

- 4 But there are distinctions of gifts, but the same Spirit;
5 And there are distinctions of ministries, yet the same Lord;
6 And there are distinctions of operations, but the same God, who operates all things in all.
11 But the one and the same Spirit operates all these things, distributing to each one respectively even as He purposes.

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

Genuine Yokefellows – Contending Together in the Gospel, cont’d

.Contending Together – Being Assisted to Each Fulfill Our Indispensable,

God-given Ministry

a) According to the Operation of the Spirit – 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

“In these verses Paul speaks of the Trinity. He speaks of the Spirit in verse 4, the Lord in verse 5, and the Father in verse 6. The gifts are by the Spirit, the ministries are for the Lord, and the operations are of God. The gifts are the enabling. When we exercise our gifts, the ministries come forth. Thus, the gifts are for the ministries. In Greek the word rendered ministries simply means services. Ministries is from the same root as the word which means deacons, serving ones. Deacons are serving ones, and ministries are their services. When we use our gifts to function, spontaneously that function becomes a service.”

“God is the Administrator, the One who is administrating by means of the operations. These operations are the works to carry out the divine administration. These operations, these works, are accomplished by the services, the ministries. Jesus Christ the Lord, the anointed One, takes care of all these ministries. Hence, they belong to Him and are of Him. But how does the Lord obtain these services? It is by the Spirit’s gifts. Furthermore, the use of these gifts depends on our cooperation...The exercise of the gifts carries out the ministries and the ministries accomplish the operations. These operations are for the carrying out of God’s