



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

STAND FIRM IN PRACTICE, - PHILIPPIANS 4:9

WYOMING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2013

Dan File, PO Box 1088, Lake City, CO 82135-1088/303-345-8830 / dan.file@capitolcom.org

Paul exhorts us in the first nine verses of Philippians 4 to stand firm. He commands us to stand firm by being unified and submitted to God and His Word. We are to stand firm by being joyful even in the midst of hard circumstances. We stand firm by having a gentle, forbearing spirit which is known to all men and by understanding that the Lord is near to us. We stand by not being anxious about life but instead take everything to God in prayer with a thankful heart. Our minds dwell and think on those things that are true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, of good report, excellence, and are praise worthy. Our minds are saturated with God and His Word, thinking on "these things" because temptation and deception are at every turn and God develops in us godly thoughts and godly attitudes! Now Paul proceeds from what we think on the inside to how we live on the outside!

I. PRACTICE THESE THINGS+ PHILIPPIANS 4:9

"The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you." Philippians 4:9

In Philippians 4:8, Paul exhorts the believer to "dwell on these things"! If we allow God's thoughts and perspectives to dominate our thoughts and fill our minds, then, His desires become our desires and His will becomes our will. Then, we will not only think on these things but "practice these things" as well! In fact, Paul commands us in Philippians 4:9 to practice and live these things out in our lives. Paul first dealt with our minds and now he turns to how we live. Living a life that pleases God and enables us to stand firm through the toughest of times takes place only when right attitudes and thoughts permeated our mind resulting in behavior that is obedient to God.

A. PRACTICE+ LIVE THE LIFE. PHILIPPIANS 4:9

Paul comes to the point of bringing "all things" where they must be lived out in the Philippians life and ours as well.

practice+Greek word **prasso+** means having a repeated action, continuous action, loyally standing by and doing the things learned, hold unswervingly to actions learned, allow lives to be controlled and altered by, keep putting into practice.

This word gives the sense of a living a lifestyle that has been learned and continues to be learned. It is a repeated action whereby one continues to put in practice what is learned and this action never stops. It is not about practicing to learn a skill like you would to learn a sport. Rather, this word could refer to something like a doctor's practice. A doctor, hopefully, has

learned his doctoring in medical school and through his residency. Now, he lives the life of a doctor by having a practice. He practices being a doctor by living the life of a doctor. He is controlled and loyal to the life learned, by being a doctor. This is what Paul is saying to the Philippians and to us. Paul wants us to live the life as a believer and the habit of our life, the action of our life, the practice of our life is that of being a follower of Jesus Christ. As believers, the practice of our lives is to live godly and obedient lives.

We are to loyally stand by and hold unswervingly to that which we have learned from Paul. We allow our lives to be controlled and changed by God and His Word. Pleasing God as the practice of our life comes only when we have learned the attitudes and disciplines Paul exhorts us to in Philippians 4:1-8. Since we have learned these things as more than a collection of facts, but rather knowledge to live by, we now practice them for the rest of our lives like a doctor practices his medical profession for the rest of his life.

It will require having a heart and mind continually submitted to God and His Word so that we can continue to grow in knowledge and then in practice. It's like a doctor who continues to learn through new information and research, thus improving and growing in his practice and care given. So, a believer continues to saturate his/her mind with God and His Word, growing in knowledge, understanding and discernment and growing in practice of an obedient, godly life.

We first must learn, understand and embrace God's teaching in His Word. Then what develops is a lifestyle that is controlled by our devotion to the truth found in the Scriptures. Our conduct, our behavior, our actions stem from the renewing of our mind with thoughts that dwell on what is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, of good report, excellence, and are praise worthy. We "dwell on these things" and we "practice these things" and so stand firm in the Lord.

B. PAUL AS OUR MODEL. PHILIPPIANS 4:9

Paul was an example to the believers of Philippi and for us as well. God used men and women like Paul as models of Christian behavior. In Philippians 3:17 Paul writes, "Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us." Here again Paul writes of his testimony among the believers in Philippi where he was an example of what he taught. Paul's teaching was backed by his life. His actions did not contradict what he taught. Jesus Christ had transformed him from the inside out and the pattern he lived was worthy of being followed. Could we say the same? What specifically did Paul mention here regarding his example, and keep in mind the very example we are to have as well.

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS, GOVERNOR, STAFF & SPOUSES: WEDNESDAY, 6:30AM, BREAKFAST SERVED

WYOMING STATE CAPITOL, HERSCHLER BUILDING COMMONS AREA

Capitol Commission, Wyoming

Stand Firm In Practice, Philippians 4:9

1. THE THINGS YOU HAVE LEARNED + PHILIPPIANS 4:9

%learned+ Greek word **%manthano+** means a learner, a disciple, to have learned what is taught though teaching, instructing and discipling.

Paul here is referring to the personal instruction he had given to the Philippians. Keep in mind that Paul was in their homes and he had taught them. They saw him imprisoned for the sake of the Gospel and how he responded to the circumstances of his life. Paul had taught the Philippians both Christian doctrine and Christian living. Paul emphasizes here the things they learned by his own teaching and example while living among them. He exhorted them to put these things into practice. Let these things be the practice of their lives and ours as well.

2. THE THINGS YOU HAVE LEARNED AND RECEIVED + PHILIPPIANS 4:9

%received+ Greek word **%paralambano+** sometimes used in the New Testament as a technical term for God's revelation, to receive near.

Paul refers to the fact that the Philippian believers not only heard the Gospel but received it with their own hearts. In 1 Thessalonians 2:13, Paul wrote, *"For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe."* Paul entreats the Philippians to put into practice what they had received by him, the Word of God. Paul is saying that since they have received these things, God's truth, His Word, then, *"guard the treasure"* (2 Timothy 1:14) and pass the treasure on! (2 Timothy 2:2) Paul calls attention to the fact that they had indeed received God's Word for what it is and embraced it with their lives. And since they have received something of so much importance... they must use it, guard it and pass it on!

3. THE THINGS YOU HAVE LEARNED AND RECEIVED AND HEARD + PHILIPPIANS 4:9

%heard+ Greek word **%akouo+** means to hear an account of a thing, or a person, to have an understanding, hear with an ear of the mind.

Paul refers to the things they have heard about him. Not only did the Philippians see with their own eyes the testimony of Paul's life, but they heard about it as well. Paul's reputation was above reproach, blameless and they had certainly heard from others of his character, lifestyle, witness, preaching and his suffering for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They were to practice, imitate those godly qualities that he was known for.

4. THE THINGS YOU HAVE LEARNED AND RECEIVED AND HEARD AND SEEN + PHILIPPIANS 4:9

%seen+ Greek word **%eido+** means to perceive with the outward senses, particularly with physical sight.

The Philippians had seen with their own eyes the testimony of Paul's own life. As they walked and talked with Paul themselves, they experienced his deep and abiding passion for Christ and his love for God. They had observed Paul's character during his stay with them in Philippi. The Philippians saw first hand how Paul lived. What Paul spoke with his lips he also lived with his life. He was not a man who said one thing and did another. He had no hidden agenda, no secret motive. Because Paul's life was so in line with what he preached, he could encourage the Philippians to model their lives after what they saw in his.

C. PRACTICE AND A PROMISE. PHILIPPIANS 4:9

"The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you." Philippians 4:9

In Philippians 4:7 believers are told that the **peace of God** will guard our hearts. Here in Philippians 4:9, the ones who are faithful in following the example of the apostle Paul are promised that the **God of peace** will be with them. Once again we are reminded of His presence enabling us to dwell on *"these things"* and practice *"these things"*. Only in this way will we remain purely devoted to our Lord and be able to stand firm and not be deceived, falter or fall.