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APRIL Bible Study  
Phillipians Chpt. Four

Paul is writing this letter from his prison cell in Rome to the church at Phillipi.

Phillipians 4:1 "Joy and Crown". These converts are the fruit of Paul's ministry. They are the reward of all his labors. He exhorts them to stand firm in the faith.

4:2 These were two prominent women in the church, possibly deaconesses. They had labored with Paul, and evidently were having a disagreement, which was affecting the whole church. He urges them to settle their differences for the sake of the gospel.

4:3 Clement was possibly the Bishop of the church at Rome. He was a constant companion of Paul in his travels.

"The Book of Life". Luke 10:20 Rev.3:5 Rev.20:12-15 This is the register in Heaven of the names of all God's covenant people. All who have put their faith in Christ are recorded in this book. Your name is there too.

4:4 Paul says, "Rejoice always"! Joy is a choice you make. Happiness might depend on the circumstances around you, but joy is a choice you make regardless of circumstances. It comes from within, based on the realization of all God has done for us.

4:5 By "your moderation", he means your forbearance, your graciousness. Keep in mind that the Lord's return could happen at any time, and live accordingly.

4:6 "Be careful" means anxious. A better translation is, "Be anxious for nothing"; don't worry about anything. Mt.6:25  
He uses the words, "prayer and supplication" to mean two different things. Prayer is simply talking to God, as in praise and worship. Supplication is making a specific request of God. When you ask, you should do so with THANKSGIVING, believing He heard you and will answer you. 1Jn.5:14,15 Mk.11:24 Heb.11:1 v.6

When do you believe God has heard and answered your prayer? Do you wait until you see it with your eyes? Doesn't Heb.11:1 say faith is the evidence of things NOT SEEN? It takes no faith to believe

**gift.**

**4:15-18** The Phillipians were the only ones to support his ministry at first. God keeps the account books, and He takes note of their generosity. When he says "fruit abounding to their account", he means God will credit it in Heaven to them. In v.18 when he talks about a "sweet smell", he compares it to the odor of the sacrifices made to God, as the fragrance of incense rising. Rev.5:8 Do you realize that God keeps your prayers in golden vials and their odor is a sweet smell to Him?

**4:19,20** Sometimes we forget about our Father's riches. He knows what you need in every situation and He will supply you with it. If you will follow His instruction to give to others, He will balance the books. He'll see to it that you are repaid. Lk.6:38  
Again he glorifies God for His faithfulness.

**4:21-23** He sends them his blessing and sends greetings from the other Believers in Rome.

**Next: May 11**