

# **Philippians - Chapter 4:1-3**

Holly Hills Bible Church - Aug 18,  
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## **Philippians 4:1-3 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long *to see*, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.

<sup>2</sup> I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord.

<sup>3</sup> Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in *the cause of* the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

## Verse 1

### Working with the translation

#### Philippians 4:1 (NASB)

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long *to see*, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.

So then my beloved and longed for brethren, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, beloved ones.

Verse 1 should probably belong with Chapter 3.

Paul is exhorting them to “stand firm” in the way which he has just described in Chapter 3.

## Verse 1

**“In this way stand firm in the Lord”**

“stand firm” =  $\sigma\tau\acute{\eta}\kappa\omega$  = stēkō

$\sigma\tau\acute{\eta}\kappa\omega$  means to “be constant”

It is a synonym with “abide” or “remain” (CWD)

Stay Put! Don’t step off this ground!

**“For our citizenship is in heaven...”**

We stand on heavenly ground in Christ!

# Verse 1

## “In this way stand firm in the Lord”

### **Romans 5:1-2 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

### **Philippians 3:13-14 (NASB)**

<sup>13</sup> Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of *it* yet; but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Faith is the means by which we live the Christian life!

## **Verse 1**

**“In this way stand firm in the Lord”**

“...keep your standing in the Lord, dearly beloved.” (Alyssa)

We HAVE a standing. We abide in it, “keep it” or cling to it by faith.

## Verse 1

So then my beloved and longed for brethren, my joy and crown...

my...

beloved + longed for

brethren,

my...

joy + crown

## Verse 1

So then my beloved and longed for brethren, my joy and crown...

beloved = ἀγαπητός

longed for = ἐπιπόθητος

Phl 1:8 For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

Phl 2:26 because he[Epaphroditus] was longing for you all and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick.

“longing” is used in contexts where physical separation is in view. Sometimes the idea is translated “I long to see you”. (The idea is a desire to be present with our loved ones in Christ.)



## Verse 1

So then my beloved and longed for brethren, my joy and crown...

joy = χαρά (from χαίρω - rejoice)

crown = στέφανος – a wreath

1) As the prize conferred on victors in public games and elsewhere, a wreath

2) Figuratively, an ornament, honor, glory, that in which one may glory

## Verse 1

So then my beloved and longed for brethren, my **joy and crown**...

### **1 Thessalonians 2:17-20 (NASB)**

<sup>17</sup> But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short while—in person, not in spirit—were all the more eager with great desire to see your face.

<sup>18</sup> For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and *yet* Satan hindered us.

<sup>19</sup> For who is our **hope or joy or crown of exultation**? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?

<sup>20</sup> For you are our glory and joy.

### **Philippians 3:20 (NASB)**

<sup>20</sup> For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

Here Paul has in mind the custom of cities preparing wreaths of various material (olive, ivy, oak, beaten gold) **in anticipation of the arrival of high ranking dignitaries**. These wreaths were either worn on the body and clothing or strewn about the streets. **They were emblems of joy and expressions of devotion given by the people to the visiting official**. As such, the Thessalonian converts are analogous to these wreaths and represent **not what Christ will give to Paul but what Paul will offer to Christ** in joyous tribute to Him at His return.

The Complete Word Study Dictionary (on 1 Thess 2:19-20)

## **2 Corinthians 11:2**

<sup>2</sup> For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you *as* a pure virgin.

## **Verse 1**

So then my beloved and longed for brethren, my joy and crown...

## **What made the Philippians the joy and crown of Paul?**

The Church is the product of pure grace. She is more precious to Christ than anything else. And Paul took great delight in the Philippians as such.

## **Verse 2**

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord.

**Understanding that we are talking about the beloved bride of Christ, which will be presented to Him at His return, how does this help set up our understanding of verse 2?**



### Verse 3

Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in *the cause of* the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Paul encourages this “true companion” (yokefellow) to help these women.

Σύζυγος – sood’-zoo-gos

It was a practice among these first century Greeks at their Christian baptism, to discard their pagan name, and be given a new name descriptive of their new characters as moulded by their new Lord and Master.

(Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament)

It takes wisdom and sensitivity to resolve interpersonal issues in the local Church. Paul feels that “Σύζυγος” has the necessary qualities for the job. (Whether that was his personal name, or Epahroditus or someone else.)



### Verse 3

Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in *the cause of the gospel*, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Eudia and Syntyche had labored alongside Paul in the work of the gospel.

**Philippians 1:22** - But if *I am* to live *on* in the flesh, this *will mean* fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose.

- 1) What was the fruit that Paul was aiming at?
- 2) What was the energizing source of Paul's work?

### Verse 3

Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in *the cause of* the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

1) What was the fruit that Paul was aiming at?

2) What was the source of Paul's work?

### **Colossians 1:28-29 (NASB)**

<sup>28</sup> We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. <sup>29</sup> For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

## Verse 3

...whose names are in the book of life.

What is the “book of life”?

### **Revelation 20:11-15 (NASB)**

<sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. <sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one *of them* according to their deeds. <sup>14</sup> Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. <sup>15</sup> And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

## **Verse 3**

...whose names are in the book of life.

### **Whose names are in the book of life?**

All those who are righteous by grace through faith.

The Church is distinct from believers of every other age, but all believers have their names written in the book of life.

## **Verse 3**

...whose names are in the book of life.

**Is your name in the book of life?**

### **1 John 3:14 (NASB)**

<sup>14</sup> We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.

### **1 John 3:14 (WuestNT)**

As for us, we know absolutely that we have passed over permanently out of the death into the life...