INTRODUCTION

* At the beginning of this series, we considered that the overall theme of Paul's letter to the Philippians was "koinonia in Christ." Koinonia is the concept of having a oneness or unity, as a result of having all things in common. John declared in the beginning of his first epistle that he was writing to the church in order that they might have "fellowship" (koinonia) together because "truly our fellowship (koinonia) is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ."
* So, in this epistle of Paul's we see that this fellowship should be evident in the oneness of the church in the Proclamation of Christ (chapter 1), in the Posture of Christ (chapter 2), and in the Pursuit of Christ (chapter 3). Today, we begin turning our attention to chapter 4 where we see Paul discuss how our fellowship, and oneness, in the Presence of Christ.
* When we individually and as a body are focused upon, and dwelling in, His presence it will have a direct affect upon our temperament and contentment.
* As we take on the "mind of Christ" it will begin to change how we interact with others and how we react to the events of life. When we are cognizant of Christ's presence in our lives - at all times - we will begin to treat others differently and have a different mindset towards those things in life which once caused us great consternation.

INSTRUCTION

I. THE P_____ TO BELIEVERS (v. 1-3)

A. Paul's E_____ to the Church (v. 1)

* cf. Philippians 1:27; 1 Corinthians 16:13; Galatians 5:1; Ephesians 6:10-13; Mark 3:23-26; 1 Corinthians 10:11-14)

B. Paul's E_____ to Euodia and Syntyche (v. 2; Phil 1:27)

1. THEIR D_____:

2. THEIR D_____:
   * cf. Acts 15:36-41 ... PAUL/BARNABAS
   * cf. Rom 14:13-19; Eph 4:1-3; Heb 12:12-15

C. Paul's E_____ to his Yoke-Mate (v. 3)

1. THE TERM

2. THE CHALLENGE

II. THE P_____ FOR BELIEVERS (v. 4-9)

A. In Your Attitude (v. 4-7)

1. THE IMP_____ (v. 4-6; Galatians 5:22-23)
   a. The Command to Choose To Be Joyful (v. 4-5; cf. John 15:5-11; 16:19-24; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5; James 1:2-3)
      i. The Intensity of the Command

      ii. The Testimony of Your Joyfulness

   b. The Command to Choose To Be Thankful (v. 6)
      i. While _____ (cf. Matthew 6:25-34; Luke 10:38-42; 1 Cor 12:25-26; Phil 2:20)

      ii. While _____ (cf. 1 Peter 5:6-7)

2. THE IMP_____ (v. 7; cf. John 14:25-30; 16:32-33)

B. In Your Actions (v. 8-9)

INTROSPECTION

* Are you a thankful and joyful person? What would others around you say?
* What does your response to trials and afflictions indicate about your belief that "the Lord is at hand"?
* How important is the unity and oneness of the body of Christ?
* Are you modeling the "mind of Christ" in your interactions with others in the local body of Christ, and the greater body of Christ?
* Is there a need to change the way you think and therefore the way you act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

* What impact do the relationships that we have in the church affect us and our relationships in the world?
* How do our church relationships affect our witnessing opportunities?
* How does our trust in God affect our testimony with others in the world?