INTRODUCTION

* Last week we began to look at the final section of Paul's letter to the church of Philippi. Paul begins this section with three pleas - to the church, to Euodia and Syntyche, and to his "yoke-mate" ... regarding the division that had occurred between Euodia and Syntyche.
* Paul instructs the church that unity will only be accomplished when the temperament of each person reflects the Presence of Christ. To the church, he states that they need to stand fast "in the Lord." To Euodia and Syntyche, he implores: be of the same mind "in the Lord." In his list of imperatives of corrective attitudes and actions, Paul declares "Rejoice in the Lord" and reveals that our doing so gives testimony that we believe "the Lord is at hand."
* In verse 5, Paul commands the Philippians to "let your gentleness be known." The term for "gentleness" could better be translated "temperament." Temperament is "The manner of thinking, behaving, or reacting which is characteristic of a specific person." WHAT WE TRULY BELIEVE IS REVEALED BY OUR TEMPERAMENT! As we mentioned last week: 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.
* Last week we began considering the "The Pattern" that Paul calls upon believers to embrace - both in their attitudes and in their actions. We will begin today with a brief review of the commands to choose to be joyful and to choose to be thankful, before moving on to the two commands concerning our actions - what we think upon and what we do.

INSTRUCTION

I. THE PLEA TO BELIEVERS (v. 1-3) ... seek unity!!!
- **A. Paul's Exhortation to the Church (v. 1) ... Stand fast in the Lord** (cf. Phil 1:27; 1 Cor 16:13; Gal 5:1; Eph 6:10-13; Mk 3:23-26; 1 Cor 10:11-14)
- **B. Paul's Encouragement to Euodia and Syntyche (v. 2; Phil 1:27) ... Be of the same mind in the Lord** (cf. cf. Rom 14:13-19; Eph 4:1-3; Heb 12:12-15)
- **C. Paul's Entreaty to his Yoke-Mate (v. 3) ... Assist these servants of the Lord**

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

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

1. THE IMPERATIVES (v. 4-6) ... Galatians 5:22-23 ... The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace ...
   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 Not Being Anxious (cf. Matthew 6:25-34; Luke 10:38-42; 1 Cor 12:25-26; Phil 2:20)
      ii. While Submitting Your Requests to God (cf. 1 Peter 5:6-7)
2. THE IMPORTANCE (v. 7; cf. John 14:25-30; 16:32-33)

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

1. THE IMPERATIVES
   a. The Command to Choose To T_____ on the Right Things (v. 8; Matthew 3:2; 4:17)
      i. THINGS WHICH ARE TRUE (cf. Matthew 22:16; John 4:18; Acts 12:9; Romans 3:4)
      ii. THINGS WHICH ARE NOBLE (cf. 1 Timothy 3:8, 11; Titus 2:2 ... 1 Timothy 2:2; 3:4; Titus 2:7)
      iii. THINGS WHICH ARE JUST (cf. Matt 20:4,7; John 7:24; Acts 4:19; Rom 3:26; Ephesians 6:1)
      iv. THINGS WHICH ARE PURE (cf. 2 Corinthians 7:11; 11:2; 1 Tim 5:22; James 3:17; 1 John 3:3)
      v. THINGS WHICH ARE LOVELY (Only Use)
      vi. THINGS WHICH ARE OF GOOD REPORT (Only Use)
         a. They Are Virtuous (cf. 1 Peter 2:9; 2 Peter 1:3,5)
         b. They Are Worthy of Praise (cf. Romans 2:29; 2 Corinthians 8:18; Ephesians 1:6,12,14; 1 Peter 2:14)
   b. The Command to Choose To D_____ the Right Things (v. 9; cf. 3:17; Proverbs 16:3; 1 Corinthians 11:1)
      i. DOCTRINALLY
      ii. PRACTICALLY
2. THE IMPORTANCE (cf. Romans 16:20; 1 Corinthians 14:33; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20; Hebrews 13:20-21)

INTROSPECTION

* Upon what do you spend most of your time meditating?
* Do you have a spiritual "mentor" to whom you look as an earthly example of living with a Christ-like mind?
* Where are you in the continuum of demonstrating that Christ-like mind for others?
* Are you trusting fully in the sovereignty of God in your life? Are you thankful or anxious regarding the affairs of your life?
* Is there a need to change the way you think and therefore the way you act?

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

* How can we effectively help one another in thinking on the "right things"?