

Bible Study. Philippians Ch. 4

1. Opening Prayer

2. Intro: *para-kaleo*

para (by, beside, near, with, of) + *kaleo* (to call)

to admonish, to beseech, to console, to encourage, to exhort, to comfort, to teach...

Its noun, *parakleisis*, is used 29 times in the NT (20 times in Paul's letters).

In Philippians,

2:1, consolation (KJV), encouragement (ESV, NLT, NIV, NRSV)

4:2, beseech (KJV), entreat (ESV), appeal to (NLT), plead (NIV), urge (NRSV)

In others letters,

1 Thessalonians 2:3, exhortation (KJV), appeal (ESV), preach (NLT), appeal (NIV, NRSV)

Philemon 1:7, consolation (KJV), comfort (ESV, NLT), encouragement (NIV, NRSV)

Question. Considering those all different translations, how shall we understand *para-kaleo*?

3. Read Philippians Ch. 4

4. Discussion

- a. How do you understand “therefore” in verse 1? What is the basis to say “therefore” here? Do you see “therefore” in other parts in this letter?
- b. Why do you think Paul calls the audience as “my joy and crown” in verse 1?
- c. Can you find out a phrase repeated in verses 1-9? What would be the importance of repetition of the phrase?
- d. How shall we imagine Euodia and Syntyche? And who would be called “you, my loyal companion” in verse 2?
- e. Discuss on verses 4-7 that seem to tell us the ways to be the same mind of the Christ.

- f. What would be Christian rejoicing and Christian gentleness?
- g. How shall we understand the sudden statement, “The Lord is near” in verse 5?
- h. How shall we understand the Christian virtues in verses 8-9? And why do you think Paul lists them out?
- i. Have we also learned to be content with whatever we have (v. 11)? What would be the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry (v. 12)?
- j. How do you see the relationship between Paul and the church of Philippi?

5. Closing Prayer