

SERMON NOTES:



September 6, 2026

Living Out the Nearness of Christ
PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9

Pastor Mick Spann

Our theology has to grow real legs

- Paul connects theology and practice... What we believe about Christ should shape how we live on Monday.
- Standing firm in Christ means allowing the Gospel to shape our relationships.
- Euodia and Syntyche were in conflict. Paul calls them to be “of the same mind in the Lord.” Reconciliation sometimes requires others to help us untangle disagreements.
- In the end, we are family — and we are going to spend eternity together. So we better get used to it!

Rejoice — because the Lord is near

- Paul repeatedly calls the church to rejoice.
- Rejoicing is primarily a community practice, not simply an individual response.

“Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.”

- Gentleness is strength restrained for the good of others.
- Because Christ is near, we can respond to others with grace, mercy and patience.
- Christ is near... we can consider that nearness in at least two senses:
 - His return is near.
 - His Spirit is with us now.

When life is frightening

- “Do not be anxious” does not mean pretend life isn't hard.
- We cannot fix difficult circumstances by freaking out about them.
- Instead:
 - Pray.
 - Bring our concerns to God.
 - Give thanks.
 - Receive His peace.
 - Allow others to journey with us.
- The peace of Christ is a gift, not something we manufacture.
- And that peace is meant to be shared within community.

Train your mind together

“Whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable...”

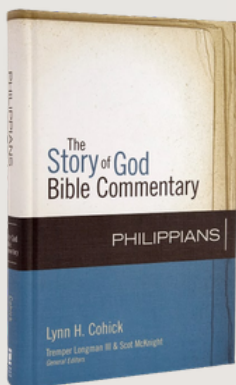
- We need discernment to recognise what is genuinely good.
- Our ultimate guide is Christ and His Kingdom.
- We are not designed to discern everything alone.
- The church provides a gracious community where we can:
 - Challenge self-deception.
 - Encourage Christlikeness.
 - Learn from one another.
 - Grow in humility.

The Goal

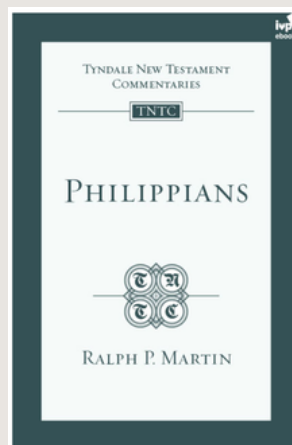
- Abide with Christ.
- Live for His Kingdom.
- Walk together through every season.
- Be willing to have our pride challenged and our feet washed.
- Through it all, trusting the blessing Paul gives: “The God of peace will be with you.”

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Resources that Mick found helpful in the development of this series:



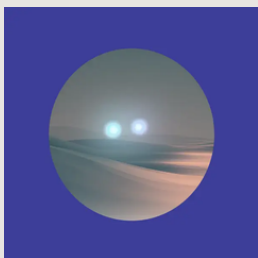
Philippians -
Professor Lynn H.
Cohick



Philippians -
Dr Ralph P. Martin



Podcast
The Family Of God



When the Church was a
Family -
Joseph H. Hellerman

