

Philippians 4.2-9

2

BGT Εὐδοίαν παρακαλῶ καὶ Συντύχην παρακαλῶ τὸ αὐτὸ φρονεῖν ἐν κυρίῳ.

NET I appeal to Euodia and to Syntyche to agree in the Lord.

NRS I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

KJV I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.

DRA I beg of Evodia and I beseech Syntyche to be of one mind in the Lord.

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

NIV I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord.

NLT And now I want to plead with those two women, Euodia and Syntyche. Please, because you belong to the Lord, settle your disagreement.

MSG I urge Euodia and Syntyche to iron out their differences and make up. God doesn't want his children holding grudges.

- How can you tell that Euodia and Syntyche are women?
- παρακαλῶ ... παρακαλῶ: Recall Paul's παρακλήσις in 2.1.
- φρονεῖν: Note Paul's use of this idea in Phil. 1:7; 2:2, 5; 3:15, 19; 4:2, 10. Especially note the similar construction in 2:2.

3

BGT καὶ ἐρωτῶ καὶ σέ, γνήσιε σύζυγε, συλλαμβάνου αὐταῖς, αἵτινες ἐν τῷ εὐαγγελίῳ συνήθλησάν μοι μετὰ καὶ Κλήμεντος καὶ τῶν λοιπῶν συνεργῶν μου, ὧν τὰ ὀνόματα ἐν βίβλῳ ζωῆς.

NET Yes, I say also to you, true companion, help them. They have struggled together in the gospel ministry along with me and Clement and my other coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

NRS Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

KJV And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.

DRA And I entreat thee also, my sincere companion, help those women who have laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement and the rest of my fellow labourers, whose names are in the book of life.

NAU 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.

NIV Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

NLT And I ask you, my true teammate, to help these women, for they worked hard with me in telling others the Good News. And they worked with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are written in the Book of Life.

MSG And, oh, yes, Syzygus, since you're right there to help them work things out, do your best with them. These women worked for the Message hand in hand with Clement and me, and with the other veterans--worked as hard as any of us. Remember, their names are also in the book of life.

- Who or what is σύζυγε? Be sure to check the entry in BDAG or the NET Bible note. Why do some think it refers to Paul's wife?
- Note all the συν- compounds: σύζυγε, συλλαμβάνου, συνήθλησάν (cf. 1:27), συνεργῶν (cf. 2:25).
- Is the NLT correct to capitalize "Book of Life"? Cf. BDAG, βίβλος, 2: a book of accounts, record-book, esp. β. τῆς ζωῆς book of life Phil 4:3; Rv 3:5 (cp. Ex 32:32f; JosAs 15:3); 13:8 v.1.; 20:15. Pl. Hv 1, 3, 2. More exactly β. ζώντων 1 Cl 53:4; Hs 2:9; judgment will be rendered on the basis of books.

4

BGT Χαίρετε ἐν κυρίῳ πάντοτε· πάλιν ἐρῶ, χαίρετε.
NET Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say, rejoice!
NRS Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
KJV Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.
DRA Rejoice in the Lord always: again, I say, rejoice.
NAU Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!
NIV Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!
NLT Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again-- rejoice!
MSG Celebrate God all day, every day. I mean, revel in him!

- Note where else χαίρετε is used in the NT: Matt. 5:12; 28:9; Lk. 10:20; 2 Co. 13:11; Phil. 2:18; 3:1; 4:4; 1 Thess. 5:16; 1 Pet. 4:13. What generalizations can you make about its use in early Christian literature?
- Recall the uses of χαίρω (Phil. 1:18; 2:17f, 28; 3:1; 4:4, 10) and χαρά (Phil. 1:4, 25; 2:2, 29; 4:1) in Philippians.

5

BGT τὸ ἐπιεικὲς ὑμῶν γνωσθήτω πᾶσιν ἀνθρώποις. ὁ κύριος ἐγγύς.
NET Let everyone see your gentleness. The Lord is near!
NRS Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.
KJV Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.
DRA Let your modesty be known to all men. The Lord is nigh.
NAU Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near.
NIV Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.
NLT Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon.
MSG Make it as clear as you can to all you meet that you're on their side, working with them and not against them. Help them see that the Master is about to arrive. He could show up any minute!

- What are some other English words that might be used to translate ἐπιεικής?
- When Paul refers to ὁ κύριος, is he referring to “God” or to “Jesus”?
- When Paul says, ὁ κύριος ἐγγύς, is he thinking about the presence of the Lord among us now? Or is this a reference to the Lord’s return? (Cf. NLT and MSG.)

6

BGT μηδὲν μεριμνᾶτε, ἀλλ' ἐν παντὶ τῇ προσευχῇ καὶ τῇ δεήσει μετὰ εὐχαριστίας τὰ αἰτήματα ὑμῶν γνωρίζεσθω πρὸς τὸν θεόν.
NET Do not be anxious about anything. Instead, in every situation, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, tell your requests to God.
NRS Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
KJV Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.
DRA Be nothing solicitous: but in every thing, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your petitions be made known to God.
NAU Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
NIV Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
NLT Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.
MSG Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns.

- μηδὲν μεριμνᾶτε: How do you reconcile this with what Paul says about Timothy in 2:20?
- Compare this verse to 1:3-4. What do you note?

7

BGT καὶ ἡ εἰρήνη τοῦ θεοῦ ἣ ὑπερέχουσα πάντα νοῦν φρουρήσει τὰς καρδίας ὑμῶν καὶ τὰ νοήματα ὑμῶν ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.
NET And the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
NRS And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
KJV And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
DRA And the peace of God, which surpasseth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
NAU And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
NIV And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
NLT If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.
MSG Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.

- Note how frequently God is associated with peace in the Pauline literature: Rom. 1:7; 5:1; 14:17; 15:13, 33; 16:20; 1 Co. 1:3; 7:15; 14:33; 2 Co. 1:2; 13:11; Gal. 1:3; 6:16; Eph. 1:2; 6:23; Phil. 1:2; 4:7, 9; Col. 1:2; 1 Thess. 1:1; 5:23; 2 Thess. 1:2; 1 Tim. 1:2; 2 Tim. 1:2; Tit. 1:4; Phlm. 1:3.
- Just within Philippians, note all the things that happen ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ: Phil. 1:1, 26; 2:5; 3:3, 14; 4:7, 19, 21.

8

- BGT Τὸ λοιπόν, ἀδελφοί, ὅσα ἐστὶν ἀληθῆ, ὅσα σεμνά, ὅσα δίκαια, ὅσα ἀγνά, ὅσα προσφιλῆ, ὅσα εὐφημα, εἴ τις ἀρετὴ καὶ εἴ τις ἔπαινος, ταῦτα λογίζεσθε.
- NET Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is worthy of respect, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if something is excellent or praiseworthy, think about these things.
- NRS Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
- KJV Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.
- DRA For the rest, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever modest, whatsoever just, whatsoever holy, whatsoever lovely, whatsoever of good fame, if there be any virtue, if any praise of discipline: think on these things.
- NAU Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.
- NIV Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-- think about such things.
- NLT And now, dear brothers and sisters, let me say one more thing as I close this letter. Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.
- MSG Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious--the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse.
- Τὸ λοιπόν, ἀδελφοί...: Recall that Paul had already used this phrase in 3:1.
 - In this list of virtues, which ones are specifically Christian?

9

- BGT ἃ καὶ ἐμάθετε καὶ παρελάβετε καὶ ἠκούσατε καὶ εἶδετε ἐν ἐμοί, ταῦτα πράσσετε· καὶ ὁ θεὸς τῆς εἰρήνης ἔσται μεθ' ὑμῶν.
- NET And what you learned and received and heard and saw in me, do these things. And the God of peace will be with you.
- NRS Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.
- KJV Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.
- DRA The things which you have both learned and received and heard and seen in me, these do ye: and the God of peace shall be with you.
- NAU The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.
- NIV Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me-- put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.
- NLT Keep putting into practice all you learned from me and heard from me and saw me doing, and the God of peace will be with you.
- MSG Put into practice what you learned from me, what you heard and saw and realized. Do that, and God, who makes everything work together, will work you into his most excellent harmonies.
- Note the nice contrast between ἡ εἰρήνη τοῦ θεοῦ in 4:7 and ὁ θεὸς τῆς εἰρήνης here.
 - How does what Paul tells the Philippians to do here in 4:2-9 correspond with what Paul says he does in 1:2-11?
 - Compare the last phrase with Rom 15:33.