

Philippians 4:10-23

Section 1: 4:10-14 – Rejoice in Contentment

¹⁰I rejoiced in the Lord greatly because once again you renewed your care for me. You were, in fact, concerned about me but lacked the opportunity to show it. ¹¹I don't say this out of need, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I find myself. ¹²I know how to make do with little, and I know how to make do with a lot. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being content—whether well fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need. ¹³I am able to do all things through him who strengthens me. ¹⁴Still, you did well by partnering with me in my hardship. (CSB)

Concern for Others

How often to you go out of your way to minister to others? I emphasize “go out of your way” because often our charity is limited to convenience. What I mean by this is, we do what we want first and then if we have time, we’ll serve others. Genuine concern for others doesn’t have this mindset. Paul explained the genuine mindset in Philippians 2:4,

⁴Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others.

Learn to be Content

Contentment may be one of the most undervalued word in the American culture today, because it seems rare that we are ever satisfied for an extended period of time. We want the latest and greatest phones, cars, clothes, vacations, etc. This reminds us that the things of this world are temporary and will never fully satisfy.

Paul is able to deal with any circumstance he finds himself in, because he has learned the secret of being content...Jesus. The secret to being content has nothing to do with our abilities, gifts, material possessions, circumstances...it has everything to do with Jesus. Jesus is our source of grace, hope, love, joy and yes, even contentment.

Being content can be extremely freeing, for example:

- You are no longer concerned about the things of the world.
- You will be able to rejoice in any circumstance you face in life.
- You are no longer consumed with getting more.

Being content is believing and living the truth that Christ is enough.

The Secret of Being Content

In Philippians 4:13, Paul reveals the secret to being content...Jesus. Whether Paul was facing poverty or wealth, hunger or abundance, he was able to glorify God because Christ is all he needs. Whatever circumstance you face in life, God can use it for His glory. Whether you have cancer, live in a mansion, are homeless, hungry, vacationing...wherever you find yourself in life, God can use you to glorify Him, but only if you are content. Because being content is believing that Jesus is enough. We don’t need the things of this world to experience God’s grace, mercy, love, hope, joy or peace.

Philippians 4:13 becomes difficult to apply to our lives when we allow ourselves to seek contentment in the things of the world. Over time we tend to slowly put our faith, trust and hope in the material things of this world and/or people.

Here is a simple quiz you can take to find out if you have allowed yourself to slip into seeking contentment in the world.

Ask yourself these questions:

- How do you respond when the air goes out at home?
- How do you respond when you lose Wi-Fi?
- How do you respond when the car doesn’t start?

- How do you respond when your food takes too long at a restaurant or fast food drive thru?

If Jesus is enough, then the things of this world are unessential. If Jesus is enough, then you would be content to sell everything and move to Africa and live in a mud hut for the sake of the gospel. If Jesus is enough, you'd give up your American citizenship to plant yourself in another country for God's glory. But not everyone is called to go, therefore, if Jesus is enough, you would share the gospel with your neighbors. If Jesus is enough, you'd give up portions of your money and time to help and serve others.

"Contentment flows from union with and reliance on Christ." – Tony Merida

Discussion Questions

- ❖ What is genuine concern for others?
- ❖ How are you actively, genuinely caring for others?
- ❖ What does it mean to be "content"?
- ❖ How does contentment impact our walk with Jesus?
- ❖ How do we rightly apply Philippians 4:13?
- ❖ Is Jesus enough or do you want "things" from the world as well?

Section 2: 4:15-20 – God will Supply all your Needs

¹⁵ And you Philippians know that in the early days of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving except you alone. ¹⁶ For even in Thessalonica you sent gifts for my need several times. ¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the profit that is increasing to your account. ¹⁸ But I have received everything in full, and I have an abundance. I am fully supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you provided—a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God will supply all your needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. (CSB)

Pleasing to God

Caring for one another is pleasing to God. The church at Philippi loved Paul. They desired to provide and care for him as he planted churches and shared the gospel throughout the Roman empire. Jesus summed up all the law and the prophets by telling us to "Love God and Love Others". God is pleased when we fulfill His Word to love others.

As we know, not everyone is called to leave and travel the world planting churches like Paul. However, we can all participate in the gospel ministry of church planting by praying and giving. The church at Philippi was faithful to do both. As a Southern Baptist Church, we give to the Southern Baptist Convention through the cooperative program. A portion of that money goes to missionary work around the world. We also collect the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering each year around Christmas and 100% of that money goes to missionaries around the world. Supporting the gospel work around the world is pleasing to God, whether going or supporting those going.

We give to gospel work as an act of worship to God. Therefore, we are to be joyful givers. Giving is not a means to "get" from God. We give because God has given to us. Giving is a glad act of worship. Money is a good tool but you cannot become a slave to money. We need to worship God with our money and resources, not worship our money and resources.

Supply all your Needs

There is a vast difference between needs and wants. Often, we get those two confused, but we must remember there is a significant difference. Throughout Scripture God promises to supply all our needs. This is directly tied to the previous

section about being content. We can be content in life knowing that God will give us strength and supply all our needs. God provides what we need to most glorify Him. We must learn to trust that God's will is better than our own desires.

God has an infinite amount of resources to supply all your needs. Paul is reminding us that God will supply our every need to walk with Christ. God will always faithfully provide for all your needs, but not your personal preferences. As a believer, if we can trust Jesus with our eternal security, then we can most certainly trust Him to provide our daily needs.

His Glory Forever

All of life is about glorifying God. We live for His glory not our own. This should be our focus as believers. We do all things for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31,

³¹ So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.

Whether you are going or giving, our motivation should be "for the glory of God". This motivation will impact how we handle the various circumstances we face in life.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ How are you caring for others?
- ❖ How can we, as a church, care for one another this week?
- ❖ Do you ever confuse wants and needs? Why is that dangerous?
- ❖ Do you trust that God will truly supply all your needs?
- ❖ Is glorifying God your focus in life?
- ❖ How do we glorify God with our daily lives?

Section 3: 4:21-23 – Grace be with You

²¹ Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me send you greetings. ²² All the saints send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household. ²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. (CSB)

Saints

Who is a saint? Saint means holy ones. Holy means set apart. Therefore, saint literally means, set apart ones. We are the "set apart ones" of God. What are we set apart from? Simply, the world. We are different. We are salt and light.

Lord Jesus Christ

As a reminder.

- Lord means: master, owner, ruler.
- Jesus means: The Lord saves.
- Christ means: Messiah which means Anointed One.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ How do you live out the title, saint?
- ❖ How can you be salt and light to your community?
- ❖ Is Jesus the master, owner, ruler of your life?