

Philippians 4:10-23

Contentment

Welcome back and here we go! Today we wrap up Philippians with a message of hope --- the idea that no matter what we are going through or experiencing, Christ is IN US and we can get through any trial or storm or difficulty. Not that life is all difficulty. In fact, Paul also illustrates in these final verses his joy concerning the support he has received. He says, "I am full and abound". He says, "Ceasar's house greets you." He says, "my God will bless you richly"!

Philippians 4:10-23

- 1) What stands out to you?

There is a lot to cover here: contentment, giving and strength in Christ. It is important to note that the overall arc of the message is giving, pastoral care, and supernatural blessing. So, we will cover that first before moving into contentment.

Philippians 4:10, 14-20

Paul here is making it abundantly clear that the Philippians have been a great source of finances and support and even singles them out, definitely a group of believers who are generous.

- 2) What are the benefits of being supportive of ministry?

I think for me --- and I use this line often because I believe it --- whoever supports Face of Grace, God will bless. I see it over and over. You hear it in the testimonies. When you support this ministry, I promise, God will bless you. How wonderful would it be to hear *Philippians 4:18-20*.

Philippians 4:11-13

When Paul says, "I can do all things through Christ...", he is coming from a place of contentment, meaning he has learned to be content in all situations.

"Contentment" = a state of peaceful satisfaction and freedom from worry, restlessness, or the constant urge for more.

The question is, how are you doing? Are you "happy", with family, housing, finances, physical needs, friendships.....

- 3) a) Are you content today?
b) What is your greatest source of discontentment?

Paul says to the Philippians, "I've learned... to be abased and I know how to abound".

I Corinthians 4:6-17

Here Paul is abased... In Philippians we see him abounding....

I think all of us have experienced and may even be experiencing hardship now. So, the real question is how do we get to the place where we can honestly say, "I am content", meaning I am okay, and even at peace with what God has allowed in my life. From emergency rooms to sandy beaches our lives are in a constant state of change. So being content is vital to having a quality of life that reflects healthy Christian living. Really, our peace comes from one place.

Philippians 2:1-5

- 4) How does having the mind of Christ bring contentment?

Remember, our two great themes: joy and like-minded. By being like-minded and having the mind of Christ, we can have D.V.P. and find joy in all circumstances --- abased or abounding! We can truly get to the place where we can say, "I can do all things....".

- 5) What does it mean to you... "I can do all things...".

First, what would Christ Himself strengthen you for? A drinking marathon? A 24-hour gambling spree, ability to con someone...???

It is all relative to the overall message of ***Philippians 4***.

Philippians 4:4-13

Anxiety and Contentment

What rules in our life today, fear or peace? Somehow, it all seems connected to generosity. Not just with money, but with time. And it starts with having a generous amount of time for God's Word, fellowship and His people. We find contentment in Christ. I can do all things simply means I can weather whatever life throws at me and still have peace. Life does not run me. I run my life within the parameters of what God puts before me.

Paul closes with a curious statement.

Philippians 4:22

In Chapter 1 he says, "it's become evident to the Palace Guard" and here he sends salutations from "Caesar's household". In prison, he converts others... By being content, he does this.

- 6) How does being content in trials affect those around you?

Today is a new opportunity to press in. God wants to bless you. Let whatever you do be done in Jesus' name so that I can say of you ***Philippians 4:18-20***.

May God bless you richly.

New series in TWO WEEKS. – NO CLASS NEXT MONDAY or TUESDAY.