

Series "Joy In Christ"
"Learned To Be Content"
Philippians 4:10-23
Part-16

Luke 12:15; Philippians 4:11

Paul Now Models Contentment: for I have learned

Paul had it all, religiously speaking: **Galatians 1:14; Philippians 3:7-8**

Philippians 1 Joy In Living:
Philippians 2 Joy In Serving:
Philippians 3 Joy In Sharing:
Philippians 4 Joy In Resting:

Thought Of Our Passage: "In Providence, God Sees Before Man, Providing Through His Power What Is Needed And Providing What He Promised."

- 1. Verses 10-13 Model Of Contentment:**
- 2. Verses 14-19 Fruit Of Contentment:**
- 3. Verses 20-23 Grace-Filled Farewell:**

1. Verse 10-13 Model Of Contentment:

Philippians 4:10 But

Context: Paul had been speaking about Anger/Anxiety (Verses 1-9) and how we need to come to God in prayer.

Right Praying – Adoration, Supplication, Appreciation, and Being Specific

Right Thinking – Dwelling upon the things of God

Right Living – Practice what we know, being doers of the Word

I rejoiced in the Lord greatly,

Why is Paul rejoicing in the Lord? Philippians 4:10-23

Paul is rejoicing in the Lord for all God's provision! God through the Philippians

"Providence of God"

The word "**Providence**" comes from two Latin words: "**pro**" means "before" and "**video**" means "to see." Providence means that "God sees beforehand."

It is God's working in advance to arrange circumstances and situations for the fulfillment of His purposes.

that now at last you have revived your concern for me;

God had put Paul's need on the congregation's heart.

It had been 10 years since Paul founded the church.

you have revived

Literally means - "to sprout again, to shoot up, to blossom again."

your concern for me;

Literally means - "the act of thinking on behalf of me."

indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity.
They wanted to help prior to this.
Epaphroditus's trip to Rome thus gave them the opportunity.

Contentment - Rest In God's Providence:

Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak from want;
Not focusing on the gift, but on the giver.

Apostle Paul Models Three Examples To Follow:

#1. for I have learned – *"Learn by way of experience"*

Paul is speaking about time and trials that bring about the perfecting of character.

#2. to be content - *a compound word meaning "self" and "sufficient" (Self-Sufficiency) It means that he learned to manage his financial affairs properly. He controlled the money; he did not permit money or the lack of it to decrease the effectiveness of his ministry or the joy (God) of his heart.*

be content - it is not passive:

be content - it is not complacent:

Contentment does not depend on what you have or where you are, but who you are.

Our Contentment Comes From Christ.

We Are Not Sufficient In Ourselves. 2 Corinthians 3:5

#3. in whatever circumstances ("providence" of God) I am.

Paul learned to handle God's resources. **1 Timothy 6:6-8**

One major cause of anxiety is money—too much of it or too little.

Philippians 4:12 with humble means,
Managing with very little, to be humbled.

and I also know how to live in prosperity;
"Having more than enough."

Those that are rich (The Danger) **Matthew 6:11 'Give us this day our daily bread.**

in any and every circumstance

In whatever place he found himself.

secret - This word was used of *"pagan mystery religions when a person was initiated into a secret society."*

both of having abundance and suffering need.

Paul was not affected by recession, inflation, or abundance.

(The Living Bible) Philippians 4:13 "I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ who gives me the strength and power."

A literal translation of this verse would read - *"Whatever ups and downs life sends my way, I can handle whatever comes, not through my own strength, but by the power of Christ"* **John 15:5 for apart from Me you can do nothing.**

all things

All the things that God wills me to do, requires and asks **Romans 8:37**

Contentment - Rest In God's Power:

2. Verses 14-19 Fruit Of Contentment:

Philippians 4:14 Nevertheless,

What Paul brings out is that he is thankful, not just for the gift but for the blessing that would come to the lives of the Philippians. **Acts 20:35**

done well *"that which is good and beautiful, and attractive appearance."*

share - means to be a *"fellow sharer or joint partakers."*

Paul had thanked them already for their fellowship in the gospel. **Philippians 1:5**

in my affliction.

Pressures that came to Paul from all directions.

Philippians 4:15 at the first preaching of the gospel,

Acts 16:6-10 by a vision to Philippi.

I left Macedonia, (specifically Philippi) to preach elsewhere (like Corinth)

no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone;

Philippians 4:16 During the month that he ministered in **Thessalonica.**

Then the next stop from Philippi was Thessalonica (**Acts 17**) shortly after leaving for Berea. They came through for him. (**Acts 17:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 2:3-8**)

Philippians 4:17 Not that I seek the gift itself, (Not Money Centered) was criticized for his refusal to receive money from (Corinth & Thessalonica)

2 Corinthians 11:7

but I seek for the profit

Paul was not seeking after the gift but the spiritual fruit

which increases to your account.

Receivers of a spiritual dividend. **Matthew 10:42**

account

Metaphor that means the Philippians had made an investment in Paul's ministry

Philippians 4:18

a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.

Offered with the right heart, the right way, it was pleasing to the Lord.

Leviticus 1:1–5:19

Philippians 4:19 The context is that the Philippians gave to Paul to meet his need and gave as unto the Lord for His glory! **Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9:8**

according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Jesus is the promised provider!

Contentment - Rest In God's Promise: (*My God Will Supply*)

3. Verses 20-23 Grace-Filled Farewell:

**Philippians 4:20 Praise God For His Provision For His Children:
Now to our God**

"*Adonai*" not only means Lord, or God, but it means "*my Lord,*" or "*my God.*"

and Father God is "*God the Father.*" He is also our "Heavenly Father"

be the glory

All to be done with a view to the glory of God.

Amen "*So let it be*"

Philippians 4:21 Greet every saint

This means, "*every individual saint*"

in Christ Jesus - Paul's writings, he uses this phrase, and similar to, "*In Christ Jesus*" **48 times**, "*In Christ*" **34 times**, and "*In the Lord*" **50 times**

The brethren who are with me greet you.

Timothy, Epaphras, Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke (**Philemon 23–24**)
Prison Epistles

Philippians 4:22 All the saints

Saved through Paul's ministry. **Romans 16:1-15** mentions 35 names

Philippians 4:23 grace - is unmerited favor. **Grace By Which We Are Saved - Ephesians 2:8 Grace By Which We Are Sustained - John 1:16**

Paul started with grace, **Philippians 1:2 Grace to you**

Paul now concludes with grace.

Application:

1. Contentment - Rest In God's Providence
2. Contentment - Rest In God's Power
3. Contentment - Rest In God's Promise