

"Learning Contentment in Christ"

Philippians 4. 10 - 20

1. God - The Source of our Contentment

- a. The Strength of Christ in Us v. 13
- b. The Provision of Christ for Us v. 19
- c. The Glory to God through Us v. 20

2. Discipline - Lifestyle of Contentment

- a. God works in and through Us 2.12,13
- b. Decision not to Covet vs. 11, 17a
- c. Secret to be Learned v. 12

3. Generosity - Outflow of Contentment

- a. Giving Ourselves to God 1.5, 2 Cor 8.5
- b. Giving Wisely vs. 10, 2.25
- c. Giving Regularly v. 16
- d. Giving Generously v. 18a
- e. Giving as Worship v. 18b
- f. Receiving the Reward v. 17b

"Learning Contentment in Christ"  
Philippians 4. 10 - 20

XTIAN GROWTH - UPS AND DOWNS - Good days / Bad days

GOAL - Dependable, Trustworthy, Reliable People of God

Illus - Great to come back after years away and see / Haili & MG

1. God - The Source of our Contentment

STABILITY Unchanging God / Ever Faithful and True

a. The Strength of Christ in Us v. 13

AMAZING EXPLOITS OF APOSTLES / 12 men against the world

Jealous Jews in Thessalonica said of Paul & team "These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here." 17.6

"I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing...And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name and I will do it." John 14.12-14

KEY "name" of Jesus / Authority, Power, and Sovereign Will

NO Mountain too high / No ocean too wide / MY GOD IS SO GREAT

b. The Provision of Christ for Us v. 19

v. 13 "everything" Paul // v. 19 "all your needs" Philippians

Limit NOT size of our need but THE SIZE OF OUR GOD

Ill. Remote area / 150 mi. from nearest paved road / young family  
Mission - Checking Account in NY - COMPUTERIZATION / same # given  
over \$5000 in debt - no deposits!

Local Ugandan currency in Uganda Commercial Bank in Arua / CLOSED  
Letter from US Federal Govt / my S/L closed report day in May  
OR YOU MAY LOSE ALL YOUR SAVINGS / Received letter in June

God says "for every animal in the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills..If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine and all that is in it" Psalm 50.10,11

God is not impressed by the Sultan of Brunei or Donald Trump

"GLORIOUS RICHES IN CHRIST JESUS" Illus - Passover in Egypt  
Israelites took shelter in houses from Death Angel/Slayer 1stborn  
Diff THE LAMB / Blood sealed safety / Flesh strength for Journey  
Expression "in the Lamb" // Today "in Christ Jesus"

BENEFITS OF A LIVING PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

Psalmist "under His wings you will find refuge" 91.4

THE PERSON WHO POSSESSES CHRIST POSSESSES ALL

c. The Glory to God through Us v. 20 PAUL CAN ONLY GLORIFY GOD

THE LORD MET PAUL'S EVERY NEED...

v. 10 Times Philipians COULD NOT help Paul

v. 12 Times of HUNGER AND PLENTY

v. 15 Churches who FORGOT him and those who REMEMBERED

"For ever and ever" - GOD WILL PROVIDE FOR ALL ETERNITY

2. Discipline - Lifestyle of Contentment

a. God works in and through Us READ 2.12,13 // Balance / Growth

b. Decision not to Covet Opposite of Contentment

v. 11 "I am not saying this because I am in need"

v. 17a "Not that I am looking for a gift"

CONTRA Media evangelists "send in your gift"

EX Joseph - Saw hand of God in every circumstance

"you meant it for evil, but God meant it for good and the saving  
of many people" Genesis 50.20

c. Secret to be Learned v. 12 DOES NOT COME NATURALLY

Almost a question to them, I have learned have you??

Learned by experience, step by step, day by day...

could anyone (our children) learn it from us

Illus - I want it now generation / buy it on credit, even 18%

Victims of the advertisements / Disting needs from wants

Joys of thrift shops, coupons, day old bread, garage sales  
latest movies 6 months late for \$2 for whole family rental

"the time is short., From now on those who buy something should live as if it were not theirs to keep, those who use the things of this world, as if NOT ENGROSSED in them. FOR THIS WORLD IN ITS PRESENT FORM IS PASSING AWAY." 1 Corinthians 7.29-31

### 3. Generosity - Outflow of Contentment

#### a. Giving ourselves to God

1.5 "your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now"

2 Cor 8.5 Contrasts their giving with the Corinthians:  
"they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with the will of the Lord,"

Lesson King Saul never learned from Samuel:  
"Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice and to listen is better than an offering..."  
1 Samuel 15.22,23

God wants your heart more than your money

You need God much more than He'll ever need you

#### b. Giving Wisely

vs 10 they KNEW and TRUSTED Paul "concern for me"

2.25 sent their Pastor 1) Carried gift 2) Personal concern

God so loved world sent His Son / Philipp, Paul, Epaproditus

WE LOVE THE WORLD SO MUCH SOMETIMES WE SEND A CHECK

#### c. Giving Regularly

v. 16 "again and again when I was in need" / Proportional

Seek FIRST the Kingdom of God with your paycheck

More than just emotional gift to latest crisis / WE FORGET

d. Giving Generously

v. 18a "full payment and even more, I am amply supplied"

NEVER IN HISTORY SUCH OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE GOSPEL

Falling of the Iron Curtain / Entrance into Islamic World

Avg. Income USA Xtian family - \$ 19,280 / Avg. Contrib \$ 1.85 wk  
USA church member

OT tithe was 10 % minimum / Offerings required beyond that  
Tithing not taught in NT it is assumed / How much greater in X?

EVERYTHING BELONGS TO GOD - 10 % and 90 % ALL IS HIS

Israel's blessing withheld for "robbing God" / same today

Blessing withheld from Haili Church / Haili's members

If we gave just 5% of income there would be no financial crisis

Warning of God to Israel through Malachi - "ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you." says the Lord Almighty. But you ask "How are we to return?" Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask "How do we rob you?" "In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse - the whole nation of you - because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the store house, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." Malachi 3.7-10

Haili Church - old church - generous benefactors - blessing land

Blessing become curse / Made us lazy / Haili is Rich

God is rich / obedience leads to blessing / faithful to HIM

God does not fund the work of church on real estate profits  
THROUGH HIS FAITHFUL / GRATEFUL PEOPLE

USE Real Estate Profits / Do even more / Generous for others

e. Giving as Worship v. 18b

Symbol of LOVE AND DEVOTION / God loves a Hilarious Giver

What someone gives to Haili they give to God / TO BE USED

f. Receiving the Reward v. 17b

True Story - Very Rich Man / Faithful Church member / Sat front  
Grumbled about being asked to give offerings / esp. missions  
Always gave one dime every week / Nothing to missions  
Died - Large Funeral conducted by Pastor in Church  
Died - over one year accountants assess wealth & levy taxes  
Children / Already rich / Fought over their inheritance  
Final State of Soul Left to God Alone  
Left Nothing to the Church / Work of the Gospel / Life or Death  
Enormous Bank Account on Earth/ Almost nothing to Heavens Account  
YOU CAN'T TAKE MONEY WITH YOU / BUT YOU CAN SEND IT ON AHEAD