

**Eagle Ridge Lake Elsinore**  
**A Study in Philippians — July 1, 2020**  
**Philippians 4:10-23**

**Introduction**

- Rejoice always. Show patience/gentleness to all people. Pray always in all circumstances. Think on the things of God. Practice... Get to work!

**Read Philippians 4:10-23**

**10** I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. **11** Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. **12** I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. **13** I can do all things through him who strengthens me. **14** Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. **15** And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. **16** Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. **17** Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. **18** I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. **19** And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. **20** To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. **21** Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. **22** All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household. **23** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

**Verse 10-13**

**10** I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. **11** Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. **12** I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. **13** I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

- Paul is feeling blessed by his fellow laborers in Christ.
  - The concern we received from brothers and sisters in cause to rejoice!
  - Our rejoicing should come from the love received, not the gift itself.
    - Paul was not satisfied by the gift. But by the compassion and love expressed.
    - Paul “learned” to be content. It takes time and ‘schooling’ **[life experiences]** to teach you to be content, regardless of your circumstances.
    - In a lot of our current circumstances, we face intense spiritual warfare.
      - **QUESTION:** How can we be content in the midst of a battle?
    - “Contentment is not escape from the battle, but rather an abiding peace and confidence in the midst of the battle.” (Warren Wiersbe)

- **2 Corinthians 9:8 NLT**, “And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.”
  - **Hebrews 13:5**, “Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’”
  - **1 John 4:4**, “...for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”
- This is what Paul understood and was conveying to the church... If we have Christ, we have everything!
- **Verse 12:** If we understand who is in us, and what we have gained spiritually, nothing we could ever gain in this world should bring us any sense of deep satisfaction.
- **Proverbs 30:8-9 NLT**, “...give me neither poverty nor riches! Give me just enough to satisfy my needs. For if I grow rich, I may deny you and say, “Who is the Lord?” And if I am too poor, I may steal and thus insult God’s holy name.”
    - Both material wealth and poverty have their pitfalls...if we rely on them.
- **Verse 13:** Where does our contentment come from?!
- The strength of our independence comes from our level of dependence on Christ. Our self-sufficiency comes from the One who is all-sufficient. **[paraphrase from Gerald Hawthorne]**.
  - Our example is Jesus. He was brought low, and His Father glorified Him.
  - Our earthly riches ultimately have zero worth in God’s economy. Versus our heavenly riches/blessings, that seemingly have little to no worth from the world’s perspective.

### Verses 14-16

**14** Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. **15** And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. **16** Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again.

- What the church shared with him was a blessing! Although not necessary, but became proof of their fellowship and partnership in the gospel.
- The extent of their partnership went beyond his current need and beyond their own church and community. **[ie. Missionary support]**

### Verse 17-20

**17** Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. **18** I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. **19** And my God will supply every

need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. **20** To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

- The gifts we give are for God's glory. The service and sacrifice we make are pleasing to the Lord.
  - **Romans 12:1**, "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."
  - **Hebrews 13:15-16**, "Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."
- Sacrifices given, blessings received. God does not withhold His blessings.
  - We do not deserve, nor should we expect material blessing.
  - What God may give to us could be spiritual blessings that far outweigh material gain.
- With Christ as our focus, we are content. Regardless of our circumstances!

### **Verse 21-23**

**21** Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. **22** All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household. **23** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What did God tell you?
2. What did God teach you?
3. What is God tasking you to do?
4. What is the difference between being complacent and being content?
5. If Christians truly believe Philippians 4:13, why aren't we doing more for the Lord?
6. How can our contentment be a witness to the lost?