

The Secret of Being Content

Philippians 4:10-23

I The Blessing of Contentment

- A. Paul **rejoiced** in the Philippians' concern for him
 1. Their concern was renewed - Phil 2:25
 2. They had no opportunity to show it
- B. Paul assured them he was not in need:
 1. He had learned to be **content** - Rom 8:28
 - a. He knew what it was to be in **need** - 1 Cor 4:11-13
 - b. He knew what it was to have **plenty** - Prov 30:8-9
 2. He had learned the **secret** of being content
 - a. In any and every circumstance
 1. Whether well fed or **hungry** - 1Cor4:11; Heb 13:5
 2. Whether living in **plenty** or want - 1 Tim 6:6-8
 3. He had come to a settled conviction:
 - a. "I can do **all** things through Christ who gives me strength" - Jn 15:5; Eph 6:10

II The Blessing of Giving

- A. Paul commended them for sharing his **troubles** - Heb 13:3
- B. Paul commended them for sharing in his **ministry**:
 1. They demonstrated this in the early days:
 - a. Of their acquaintance with the gospel
 - b. When Paul set out from Macedonia - Acts 16:6-10
 2. They were the only church that shared with Paul:
 - a. In the matter of **giving** - 2 Cor 8:1-7
 - b. In the matter of **receiving** - Prov 11:25
 3. They helped him again and again when he was in need
- C. Paul's motivation in mentioning their generosity:
 1. He wasn't looking for a **gift** - Matt 6:31-34; 2 Cor 9:6-11
 2. He was longing for what may **credited** to their account
- D. Paul informed them that he was content
 1. He had received full payment and even more
 2. He was **amply** supplied
 3. He had received their gifts through Epaphroditus
 - a. They were a **fragrant** offering - 2 Cor 2:14-16
 - b. They were an acceptable sacrifice - 1 Pt 2:4-5

- c. They were **pleasing** to God - Rom 12:1-2
- E. Paul assured them that God would meet their **needs**: - Lk 6:38
 1. According to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus - 2Ki 4:1-7
- F. Paul exalted in the source of all provision
 1. "To our God and Father be glory forever! - Rom 11:33-36

III The Blessing of Friends

- A. Paul desired to **greet** all the saints in Philippi - Phil 1:1
- B. Paul expressed greetings from:
 1. The **brothers** who were with him
 2. The **saints** in Rome - Rom 1:7; Eph 1:1
 3. The **believers** of Caesar's household - Rom 1:16
- C. Paul gave them a closing benediction - 2 Cor 13:14
 1. The **grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirits

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. When was the last time you experienced profound contentment?
2. On a scale of 1-10, how content are you generally?
3. Read Proverbs 30:8-9. What are the respective spiritual challenges and dangers of poverty and riches?
4. How does Paul's perspective on giving and receiving challenge you? Which do you find more difficult and why?
5. Commit to these keys to overcoming a discontented heart:
 - a. Never allow yourself to complain about anything!
 - b. Never picture yourself in any other circumstances/place!
 - c. Never compare your situation in life with someone else!
 - d. Never allow yourself to wish "this/that" had been otherwise!
 - e. Never dwell despairingly on yesterday or tomorrow!
 - f. Never forget that God is sovereign and seated on His throne!
 - g. Never fail to give thanks in all things - 1 Thess 5:16-18
6. Contentment isn't Paul's suggestion -- it is God's command!
Take a few moments to surrender this issue to God and start thanking and worshipping Him today for things "as they are!"

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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