

Philippians Study Week 9

Philippians 4:10-23

We live in a culture that struggles to be content with what we have. Whether it's cars, toys, electronics, houses, we seem to never be satisfied with what's around us. Paul figured out how to be content with little or with much... it really did not matter to him. So what was his secret? He relied on the power of Jesus for his strength. We must learn to rely on God's promises and Jesus' power to help us be content. Know this, God will supply all of your needs.

*****Read Philippians 4:10-23*****

CONTENT

Verses 10-14, get into Paul's life of contentment. Again, we must learn to rely on God's promises and Jesus' power to become content no matter what happens in our lives. If you are somebody who struggles with always wanting more or the newer or the better, ask God to remove that desire and help you to become more content.

- **Do you struggle with being content, how so? In what areas of your life are you not content? Are you consumed with what you want? What does it mean to rely on God's promises and Jesus' power?**
 - Read the following verses and discuss how they are related
 - 2 Corinthians 11:9
 - Philippians 2:30
 - 2 Corinthians 9:8
 - 1 Timothy 6:6
 - 1 Timothy 6:8
 - Hebrews 13:5
 - Paul was content because he saw life through God's perspective. He focused on what he was supposed to do, not on what he felt like he should do. He focused on the eternal and not the temporal. His priorities were in line with God and he was grateful for all he had. When you feel empty or

not content, what are you drawn to, or fill the void with? Often our discontentment or desire for more stuff is a sign of our need for Jesus in our life. Have you found true contentment?

- 1 Corinthians 4:11
- 2 Corinthians 11:9
- 2 Corinthians 12:9
- Ephesians 3:16
- Colossians 1:11
- Verse 13 is one that is taken and used out of context all the time. Can we really do all things because of Jesus? It's a verse that is used to win championships, and one a person yells right before they do some really stupid stunt... so what does it mean? The power we receive is to do God's will and face the challenges that stand in front of us while doing God's will. Jesus will strengthen you as you share the gospel and bring the good news to the world!

Read Philippians 4:15-23

Verses 15-23 Paul gets into God's provision in his life. Paul was praising them for their financial support of his ministry. We can have faith that God will always meet our needs. However, there is a big difference between wants and needs, and we must know the difference. We may not get all we want, but trust that God will supply all we need. When we trust God to provide, it shapes, attitudes, actions and life.

- What area do you struggle to fully trust God? Have you been able to decipher between a need and want? Is there a need in your life you need God to fill? Is there a want in your life you need to give up?
 - Read the following verses and discuss how they relate.
 - Philippians 1:5
 - Romans 15:26
 - Acts 17:1
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:9
 - 1 Corinthians 9:11
 - 2 Corinthians 9:5
 - 2 Corinthians 2:14
 - Ephesians 5:2
 - 2 Corinthians 9:8

- Romans 2:4
- Verses 21-23 is his final greetings to the Philippians.
 - Galatians 1:4
 - Romans 11:36
 - Romans 16:20
 - 2 Timothy 4:22

We can learn so much from this letter and from the Philippian church. They were a church made up of different kinds of people from all walks of life. The beauty of this church is they were working hard at living and working well together. Paul knew the difficulties that were ahead of this church, and they are the same issues we still face today. Paul stressed, true joy, peace and learned how to serve and love others. Paul focused his mind and ours on Jesus, knowing that produces love, unity, humility, peace and joy. We can do all things through Jesus and live boldly because the grace of Jesus lives in us!