I. FIRST, CONTENTMENT BEGINS WITH RECOGNIZING GOD’S PROVIDENCE AND GOODNESS.

A. In verse 10 Paul thanked the church at Philippi for their financial gift to his ministry—10.

B. Although the Philippian church gave Paul this financial gift He saw it as an example of God’s providence at work in his life—v.10 “I rejoice greatly in the Lord….

   1. The providence of God simply means that God is ultimately in control of what happens in our lives.

   2. He is in control when times are good and tough times come.

II. SECOND, CONTENTMENT IS A LEARNED BEHAVIOR.

A. This means that contentment isn’t something that comes naturally.

B. Paul admitted that contentment was something he had to learn how to do—v.11.

III. THIRD, CONTENTMENT ISN’T ABOUT CIRCUMSTANCES.

A. Paul learned first-hand about dealing with different and often difficult circumstances—12.

   1. When Paul had plenty or things were scarce, he knew how to be content.

   2. It’s all about our attitude.

B. Paul warned Timothy about thinking contentment depends on circumstances—1 Tim. 6:6-10.

IV. FOURTH, CONTENTMENT IS FOUND IN GOD ALONE.

A. Paul learned that the secret of true contentment is found in God alone—v.13.

B. It doesn’t matter how much stuff you have, without Christ in your life, you can’t enjoy it.

V. FIFTH, BEWARE OF THE OBSTACLES TO CONTENTMENT.

A. One obstacle is greed—Heb. 13:5.

B. Another obstacle is envy.

C. Another obstacle is a sense of entitlement.
VI. SIXTH, DISCOVER TWO PRACTICAL STEPS TO CONTENTMENT.

A. The first practical step is giving—Acts 20:35.

B. The second practical step is thanksgiving—1 Thess. 5:18.