

THE SECRET OF CONTENTMENT
PHILIPPIANS 4:10-13 / 1-20-21 / WED

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.