

## SERMON TAKE HOME-Philippians 4:10-13 The Secret of Contentment

*10I 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.*

- Read in Acts how the gospel was first brought to Philippi (Acts 16:11-40)
- Now Paul is writing a letter to the believers in Philippi and talking to them about giving monetarily (v14-19 shows this)

*11Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.*

- Paul tells them that he is not in need and then he is going to teach them about contentment
- Paul has “learned” to be content-This is not the natural response but a response learned through understanding and walking through trials. Paul has learned to trust God.

*12I 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.*

- Paul lets us know he knows how to be content in the mountains and the valleys. Read about some of the things Paul has experienced 2 Corinthians 11:23-30
- Paul’s list of trials is very humbling to read, it should help in our complaining and grumbling
- These trails/sufferings showed Paul’s weaknesses (v30)-God is sovereignly at work in all our trials/tribulations and one purpose is to show our weaknesses. This keeps us humble and keeps us looking to the Lord for grace (strength).
- What is Paul’s secret of contentment? V13

*13I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*

- When Paul says “I can do all things” this is put in the indicative mood-In other words, Paul isn’t questioning whether he can do all things through Christ, he is absolutely certain of it. Are you?
  - You see, this is a matter of faith. Many people struggle here with one of two things:
    1. This isn’t true-They believe they can’t overcome a sin or rejoice in this suffering or be content in this situation. This is unbelief-If you are here, you have believed a lie.
    2. Or people say God is able to give the strength, but He won’t give it to me. I have prayed and I haven’t overcome this or that yet. We must keep believing and keep asking(Lk 11:5-13). This is a battle of faith (2 Tim 4:7). God does give to those who ask (Matt 7:7; John 14:14)
- When you look at Paul, do you find yourself saying “What a strong man?” I think that would be the normal response, because he does appear so strong and powerful! But what we are seeing is a weak man, who by God grace (through trials/suffering) has seen his weakness, and believes “God’s grace is sufficient for him, and our power is made perfect in weakness” 2 Cor 12:9. Paul knows that when he is weak (sees his own inabilities and need for God’s grace/strength), then he is strong (in the strength of Christ). Paul is weak, but in his weakness, the grace/strength of Christ is poured into Him and then he (Paul) is strong!
- Knowing these things to be true, Paul says “Therefore, I boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me”. 2 Cor 12:9-Then Paul say v10 “For the sake of Christ (knowing Christ power will be given to me) then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”
- Are you content in your weakness (shown in trials/suffering?) If you know for sure that God will give grace (strength) in those moments when you call upon Him, you will be content when you are high or low, b/c God’s grace is with you. Meditate on 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 (This is a great understanding of what Paul means when he says “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me”)
- What hope for weak believers who want to glorify their God in life and in death!