

Philippians 4:10-13

But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned *before*, but you lacked an opportunity *to act*.¹¹ Not that I speak from need, for I have learned to be content in whatever *circumstances* I am.¹² I know how to get along with little, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every *circumstance* I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.¹³ I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

The Joy of Contentment in Christ



In this section of Philippians, Paul connects his financial needs to the wonderful help that the Philippi brethren gave to him.

- Multiple times the Philippians had helped Paul (1:5; 2:25; 2 Cor. 11:9)
- Paul's joy is not in the gift but the giver
- He is not hinting at wanting more from them (11)
- He is not complaining, or rebuking them
- His joy was not shaped by his circumstances

The Lesson Learned

1. I have learned to be content (11)
2. I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry (12)
3. I know how to get along with little (12)
4. I know how to live in prosperity (12)

These were learned from experience

A. Content means to be _____

Paul Makes A Series of Contrasts
Little/Prosperity
Filled/Going Hungry
Abundance/Suffering Need

- The apostles didn't get rich
Hungry, thirsty, poorly clothed, roughly treated, homeless (1 Cor 4:11)
In hunger and thirst, often without food (2 Cor 11:27)
- Preachers today get along much better

1. He did not allow poverty to lead him to _____
2. He did not allow prosperity to _____ him
3. Circumstances can change _____
4. Unlike the Stoics that believed in inner strength, Paul's strength came from the _____

"Prosperity has done more damage to believers than adversity"

B. His strength came from the _____ (13)

- the "doing all things" is thriving in all circumstances
- this verse is the most famous passage in Philippians
"I can do" is a verb form of STRONG
The word "strengthens" is a form of the word "Power" (which give us the word dynamite)
- it is because God provides (Ps 32:8)
- There were hidden resources, not within him, but in Christ

In a **materialistic** world: we are _____
In an **immoral** world: we are _____
In a **pleasure driven** world: we please the _____
In a **self-centered** world: we _____
In an **earthly minded** world: We set our minds on things _____

1. *The Lord and I can get through anything!* (1 Tim 6:6-8)
Paul knew that from experience!

God forgive me when I whine