



Philippians: The Secret of Contentment

April 30, 2014

In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being content—whether well-fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need.

Philippians 4:12

Background for the Letter

- Philippi was a strategic city in Greece, founded by Philip of Macedon, the father of Alexander the Great.
- During New Testament times, the city was a Roman colony, not just a city occupied by Rome...a mini Rome and proud of it.
- The church was founded on Paul's second missionary journey around AD 52. Acts 16 records the story. Key characters – Paul/Silas, Lydia (business woman), slave girl, Roman jailer.
- This letter to the church probably written around AD 63 or 64 by Paul while in Roman imprisonment.
- The young church was struggling in a hostile pagan environment, negatively influenced by false religious teaching, and discouraged by Paul's arrest and imprisonment.
- Though Paul, the Holy Spirit sent a message of hope, encouragement, and purpose in times of trial and difficult circumstances. Every generation of Christians has found comfort in this message to the Philippians.

(continued)

Key Verses

I am sure of this, that He who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Ephesian 1:6 (HCSB)

For me, living is Christ and dying is gain.

Ephesian 1:21 (HCSB)

Do nothing out of rivalry or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves.

Ephesian 2:3 (HCSB)

So that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow—of those who are in Heaven and on earth and under the earth—and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Ephesian 2:10-11 (HCSB)

Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus.

Ephesian 3:13-14 (HCSB)

I am able to do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Ephesian 4:13 (HCSB)

And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Ephesian 4:19 (HCSB)

Twelve Revelations for Contentment

- 1.) God is actively involved working out His _____ for each believer. 1:6
- 2.) Growing in the knowledge of God and discernment of His ways helps to keep the believer focused on _____. 1:10
- 3.) God uses all _____ to accomplish His redemptive work. 1:12-13
- 4.) The good news of Christ is the _____ message of human existence. 1:18
- 5.) The _____ of the believer's life is "to live is Christ and to die is gain." 1:21
- 6.) Maturing believers grow together (in community) and gain strength against inevitable _____. 1:27-28
- 7.) Demonstrating _____ provides the foundation for life in community and follows the supreme example of our Lord – empty yourself, live as a slave, obey the Father. 2:1-11
- 8.) Obedient believers in a broken perverse world will shine like _____...cannot be ignored. 2:15
- 9.) Christ must always be the focus of our boasting. For those who trust Him, His death, burial, and resurrection make possible our _____ before a Holy God. 3:3-9
- 10.) The striving efforts of the believer should be to know _____, the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His _____. 3:10-15
- 11.) Believers need mature _____ to follow. 3:17-21; 4:9
- 12.) Joy comes from knowing that God is our only source of _____. 4: 6, 13, 19