

Content – Paul’s Secret to Overcoming: Philippians 4:10-13

10 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 opportunity. 11 Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. 12 I know how to get along with humble means, 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.

But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly,

Paul rejoices with the Philippians that they can share this joy _____

At last you have revived your concern for me

Paul is not rejoicing because of the gift, but the _____ behind the gift—concern for him.

But you lacked opportunity.

Paul was always on the _____, and they didn’t have telephones or the internet to keep in touch, so while they wanted to give him a gift, they really had no way to know _____ to send it.

One of the few advantages to being in prison is that everyone knows _____ to find you—the Philippians knew where to _____ the gift!

11 Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.

Paul is saying here, that “through his discipleship in _____, he has come to _____ that he can be content, having God-supplied _____.

Paul’s contentedness outwardly may look like the Stoic (being content in whatever circumstance he finds himself in) but inwardly it is completely different because the _____ of Paul’s contentedness is not his _____ - _____ but his complete dependence on God for His _____ of Paul’s needs.

I know how to get along with humble means

Paul knows how to be _____, to be in _____.

God will certainly _____ us at times in our Christian life, but God does not _____ us

Roman culture looked on _____ as abasing, as _____

and I also know how to live in prosperity;

Pau says here that he knows how to live when he has abundance in every way, when he's _____, rich.

God warns the Israelites of the danger of _____ (Deut 8:11-14)

He was warning them that when they had more abundance, they would tend to _____ that it was God who gave them this abundance in the first place, and forget their _____ toward Him.

Wealth can deceitfully try to teach us to _____ on it, instead of relying on God. (Math 13:22)

We can't serve God and _____ at the same time (Luke 16:13)

Paul is trying to tell the Philippians to live as _____ of Heaven regarding their circumstances.

in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.

The secret of what? Of living life in _____ as life comes to him, of taking what we perceive as the "good things" coming from God, as well as those things we think of as "trials" or troubles, agreeing with (Job 2:10b).

This word that Paul uses for being contented, or being filled was used for ' _____ ' , being satisfied

And its opposite means literally going _____, not having enough to eat.

Paul is linking the suffering that he has endured in the service of Christ with the _____ to learn what it means to have the character of Christ. (see 1 Cor 4:11-13)

13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

But Paul is calling attention, not to his _____-sufficiency, or his personal _____ to cope with these difficult circumstances and be content despite circumstances, but to the sufficiency of _____ to strengthen him to get through these circumstances.

Put your circumstances into the hands of the Lord.

He uses the times when he is in _____ and sometimes _____ by others to practice turning the other cheek, praying for those who persecute him.

He uses the times when he's doing well to pay for the _____ vows of several young men, and to rent a _____ in Rome for two years, so that he can _____ his epistles to the churches.

Whatever the circumstance, Paul finds a way to see that the _____ is preached and that _____ is glorified.

Put yourself in the Hands of the Lord

The lesson that Paul is trying to teach the Philippians here, could well be summarized by Psalm 37:3-4 **Trust in the Lord and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. 4 Delight yourself in the Lord; And He will give you the desires of your heart.**

He is using his life as an example to trust in the Lord, despite any circumstances, finding those ways to do _____ (Psalm 37:3-4)

Dwelling in the land means blossoming where the Lord has _____ you. We spend so much time trying to _____ our circumstances, instead of allowing God to use our _____ to _____ us!

Dwell in the circumstances that God has put you in, and you will find that as you learn to lean on God, _____ toward Him will begin to be cultivated in your heart.

Paul was content, because he had learned that there was _____ anyone else could do, no _____ that he could find himself in, _____ that could _____ to him that would _____ him from the love of God (Rom 8:38-39), and no circumstance that God couldn't find a way to use for _____ (Rom 8:28) and no situation where Paul wasn't _____ to cooperate with God in this work of the Gospel—that's _____.

Lean on His Strength

Paul no longer the _____, _____ man that he once was while he was a Pharisee.

He had _____, not by his own _____, but by the Blood of the lamb, and the word of his testimony.

'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts. (Zech 4:6)

He had listened when Jesus had told him that His grace was _____ for him (2 Cor 12:9) and learned to be well _____ with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am _____. (2 cor 12:10)

And he wants to bring the Philippians to this same place of _____ in following God's plan for their lives.