

I. In All Situations - Phil. 4:10-14

1. Paul rejoiced in the Philippians support (**verse 10**)
 - financial
 - “renewed” your concern
2. We do not know why they had “no opportunity”
 - no one was available to come
 - they lost contact - his whereabouts
 - they did not have sufficient resources for a gift
3. Supporting God’s work
 - A. Resources
 - B. The heart to help
 - C. A channel through which to give
4. He did not mention their gift because he was in “ need” (**verse 11**)

Rea -because he’d learned that God was sufficient even in need
5. This “contentment did not come automatically - he’s “learned” it
Rea -do you spend time dwelling on material things? - does that make us “content?”
Rea
6. Paul mentioned the word “circumstances” - so God’s contentment does not depend on circumstances
7. He names well fed or hungry (**verse 12**)
 - then in “any situation”
- Rea -he learned during the “lean” times a new level of “contentment”
8. Paul’s troubled times are listed at 2 Cor. 11:24-27
9. All “through Him” (**verse 13**)
 - his contentment did not come from outside in, but from inside out
- Rea 10. I can do all things
 - discuss what “all” means in this context and what it means generally
 - from small things we learn big lessons
 - few resources... few friends... few healthy days??
11. They shared in his “troubles” (**verse 14**)
 - basic life necessities?
 - loneliness? In the prison
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. So does this mean, then, that believers can suffer times of poverty?
 2. Does this mean that God provides through others?
 3. Even in the book of Philippians we find Paul making reference to the point that he was all alone
 4. Many times believers are just as discontent as anyone else - why?
 5. However, material things are important - we have to eat... and pay rent... and taxes

II. Through Other Believers - Phil. 4:15-18

1. He remembers other times when they have provided for him (**verse 15**)
 - “not one church” except for you
- Rea -discuss why this might have been
- they gave more than once (**verse 16**)

2. At 1 Thessalonians Paul recounted how he labored night and day - to not put them out

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1 Thess. 2:9 - be a “burden” on you

-a bi-vocational ministry

3. He was not hinting that they give more (**verse 17**)

-their gift was to their credit

-a generous person will prosper (Prov 11:25)

-your gift does not go unnoticed in heaven

4. They had sent gifts through Epaphroditus (**verse 18**)

A. Called them a fragrant offering

B. An acceptable sacrifice

5. God meets our needs (often) through other believers

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. We know we ought to give to God’s church and to others in need - why don’t we do it more often?

2. God loves - through us, God gives encouragement - through us

-God provides for our social needs through His church

3. A very important meaning of this monetary gift... Paul was not forgotten, nor alone

III. For His Glory - Phil. 4:19-20

1. He anticipates that God will supply all the needs of these givers (**verse 19**)

Rea 2. Note the pronouns -

“My” God

Will supply

All “Your” needs

3. Some of our needs are material and some are even more important - non physical

Rea -for example, protection from persecution - or encouragement in hard times

4. According to God’s riches - which are limitless

-our gifts (received) according to our merit or some sort of a limited supply from God

Rea -how valuable is God’s “forgiveness?”

5. Closing doxology (**verse 20**)

-to Him be glory for ever and ever

Rea -because of His generosity and limitless mercy - He is owed glory

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Everything - even financial resources are seen by Paul and coming from the Father
-they are evidence of who He is, and how He is

2. At this end of this letter, he gets to something very important - how God has worked through them to benefit him

-we often serve as conduit of the blessings and “light” of God

-the message (gospel) comes through us

-experiencing the forgiveness of God is often mediated through us

-therefore, in God’s kingdom/ church YOU are important

3. God is a giver, and so should we be

-it is not “natural” to give... it requires the work of God

-we are “naturally” getters not givers

4. It is harder for a rich man to go to heaven than for a camel to go through the eye of a needle - who said that?

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