

Learning the Power To Be Content Philippians 4:10-13

10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.

11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

13 I can do all things through Christ which

Paul brings his letter to a close with one more personal message. He thanks the Philippians for the gift they sent to him because of their concern for his wellbeing. Paul is quick to explain that he is grateful but not because he felt he was lacking anything. God had taught him to be content in whatever circumstance he found himself. This contentment was born out of a recognition of God's sovereign instruction by such circumstances and God's sufficient supply and enablement in all these circumstances.

THE BIG IDEA

What is the main truth The Lord showed you in this passage?

Part 1 – The Careful Philippians

Read Philippians 4:10; Colossians 3:2

- 1) How did the Philippians care for Paul? How did "opportunity" affect their "care" for Paul?
- 2) The "care" of Philippians 3:10 is a different Greek word than the "careful" of verse 6. How does its usage in Colossians 3:2 as "set your affections" (KJV) show this distinction?
- 3) How can you display this intentional "care" for others?

Part 2—Learning Contentment

Read Philippians 4:11; Hebrews 13:5

- 1) How did Paul's circumstances affect his contentment?
- 2) According to Hebrews 13:5 what stability does the Christian have which enables him to be content in circumstances which could yield covetousness?
- 3) By what circumstances (which you can share) have you learned contentment?

Part 3—No Matter the Circumstance

Read Philippians 4:12; 2 Corinthians 6:4-10

- How does Paul use extremes to illustrate "everywhere and in all things"? How can you relate?
- 2) According to 2 Corinthians 6 how did Paul's response to his circumstances affect his ministry?
- 3) How do these extreme situations and examples affect how you feel about the future?

Part 4—Divine Enablement Read Philippians 4:13; 2 Timothy 4:16-18

- 1) How do you think Paul's "can do" attitude differs from the world's "can do" attitude?
- 2) According to 2 Timothy 4 how was Paul confident in God's strength?
- 3) How does this verse encourage you to trust God more?