

“And My God Shall Supply All Of Your Need”

Philippians 4:10-23

Message by Michael J. Barnard

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Teaching Aim: To see every Christian learn the secret of being content in his or her own circumstances. To recognize God is at work in the life of every believer for their good and His glory. To understand the incredible truth, *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”* To believe God will supply all of my *“needs”* according to His riches in glory, but not necessarily all of my wants.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (BIBLE STUDY)

Part I: Learning to be content in our circumstances (Phil. 4:10-13)

1. What can we learn from **verse 10** about the heart of the Philippian church and its desire to contribute towards the needs of Paul’s ministry? (**See Phil. 4:15-16**) Has God given you a heart for missions? Have you ever thought about going on a mission’s trip? If you have already gone on a mission’s trip, what did it do for you spiritually? If you have never been on a mission’s trip, what has stopped you? What are some ways that we can support missions, even if we can’t go out into the field?

2. In **verse 11** Paul was not requesting more financial support from the Philippians, he was sharing that he was content in whatever circumstance he found himself in, in Christ. What are some ways that you’ve learned to be content during the challenges of life? Have you found that you are maturing in this area with age? Much of the world looks at being content in the same light as being *“self-sufficient.”* How is the world’s understanding of sufficiency different from that of the Christian’s? Is the Christian’s sufficiency found in our self or in Jesus Christ?

3. What did Paul mean when he said, *“I know how to be abased”* (**vs. 12**)? (See Dictionary) What did he mean when he said, *“I know how to abound?”* In light of some of our nation’s economic challenges, what can we learn from people who were raised during the Great Depression? How are they different from many of our young people today? Do commercials and commercialism encourage us to accumulate *“more things”* than we really need? What are some of the dangers of materialism and how does it threaten our relationship to Christ and to the world around us?

4. In **verse 13**, Paul said, *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”* Did Paul really mean we can do *“all things?”* Have you ever dreamt about playing professional sports? Why didn’t you? What did Paul mean when he said, *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me?”* Would it be more accurate to say, *“I can do all things God has called me to do in Christ Jesus?”* What would you do in ministry if only you could? What is preventing you from trying?

Part II: The Philippian’s financial generosity was paying eternal spiritual dividends (Phil. 4:14-17)

1. How did the Philippians share in Paul’s distress while he was under house arrest in Rome (**vs. 14**)? What was the connection between the Philippian’s financial gifts and Paul’s ability to do the work of ministry? What do you think would happen to the financial well-being of a congregation if every Christian gave even a little?
2. What was Paul referring to in **verse 15** when he wrote, *“in the beginning of the gospel”*? (**See Acts 16:12-40**) According to **verse 15**, what made the Philippian church unique among the churches Paul ministered to? What can we learn about Christian giving from **Galatians 6:6-7**? Why is it important for Christians to help those who are working in fulltime ministry financially? What Scriptural truths can we learn from the following verses: **2 Cor. 8:12; 9:6-8**? How does giving with a proper heart benefit both you and those you give to.
3. Paul was accustomed to working with his hands (**1 Cor. 4:12; 2 Thess. 3:8**). In **verse 16** we learn that even in Thessalonica the church in Philippi sent aid once and again for Paul’s needs. Why did Paul need financial aid during his stay in Thessalonica? (**See Acts 17:1-9**)
4. In **verse 17**, Paul indicates that he didn’t seek this surprise financial gift from the church at Philippi, but he certainly was grateful for it. However, we find in **verse 17** that Paul was even more excited about something else. What was Paul excited about? (**See Matt. 6:19-20**) How does the principle taught here apply to every Christian today? What kind of eternal dividends have you added to your spiritual account through financial gifts given to the Lord’s work? Who is the heavenly Banker keeping tabs?

Part III: My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:18-23)

1. According to **verse 18a**, how did Paul feel after receiving this unexpected and generous gift from the Philippians? Who delivered the financial gift to Paul? (**See vs. 18; 2:25-30**) Has anyone ever blessed you with an unexpected financial gift? If so, how did you feel when you received it? Did it come at a time when you really needed it? Did you thank the giver? Do you regularly thank God for the many generous gifts He gives you?
2. The Philippians sent their gift to Paul in the hands of Epaphroditus. According to **verse 18b**, who was the offering really given to? How did God see this offering? Besides financial gifts, what are some other ways that we can give offerings to God? (**See Heb. 13:15-16; Rom. 12:1-2**)
3. According to Paul, how would God respond to this generous love offering from the Philippians (**vs. 19**)? Does this same principle apply to us today? If so, how? (**See 2 Cor. 9:6**) Can you think of any examples in which God blessed you financially when you were faithfully tithing to Him? If you are not giving faithfully to God, what is holding you back? (**See 2 Cor. 8:12; 9:6-7**)
4. **Verse 19** is a frequently quoted verse that is often misinterpreted. Is God promising us everything we want, or is He simply promising to provide for what we need? How are our wants and our needs different? What are some of the riches of God's glory that every born-again believer receives in Christ? According to Jesus, how can we receive the riches of God's glory on a regular basis? (**See John 15:5**)
5. Paul moved toward the conclusion of his book in **verse 20** with a beautiful doxology. What is a "*doxology*?" (See Dictionary) What is normally thought of today when the word "*saint*" is used? What is the biblical meaning of the word saint? How does the biblical meaning of the word differ from the popular meaning? What makes the bond among true believers around the world so special? (**See vv. 21-22**)

6. According to **verse 22**, what kind of fruit did the Holy Spirit produce through Paul during his time under house arrest in Rome? Who do you think these individuals were?
7. Paul begins and ends his epistle speaking about *“the grace of God”* (**1:1-2; 4:23**). Why is God's grace so important to every believer? Discuss some of the ways God's grace has helped you.
8. One of the most exciting things about studying God's Word is learning how to live it. A central theme in the Book of Philippians is *“JOY.”* By the grace of God, I encourage you to live each day by the acrostic *“JOY”*: J = Jesus first; O = others second; Y = yourself last. How would this kind of a lifestyle affect you and the people you come into contact with? How would it affect your relationship with God?

MINER'S CORNER – *Manna to live by!*

- As Christians, we should learn to be content in whatever state we are in.
- The Bible teaches, *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”* (See **Phil. 4:13**)
- When we give financially to the Lord's work, we are actually giving to God.
- Our *“offerings,”* when done with the right attitude, accumulate eternal dividends that are applied to our spiritual account; God Himself is our heavenly Banker.
- God has promised to supply all of our *“needs”* according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
- God did not promise to supply all of our earthly wants.
- Paul begins and ends this epistle with the grace of God.
- *“JOY”*: J = Jesus first; O = others second; Y = yourself last.