



## “The Peace of Contentment and The Fruit of Partnership”

Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 by Pastor Ed Woodus

**Philippians 4:10-19 (NKJV)** – *“<sup>10</sup> But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. <sup>11</sup> Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: <sup>12</sup> I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things, I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. <sup>13</sup> I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. <sup>14</sup> Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. <sup>15</sup> Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. <sup>16</sup> For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. <sup>17</sup> Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. <sup>18</sup> Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. <sup>19</sup> And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”*

- Two week ago, we discussed in Philippians Chapter 4 verses 1 through 5 the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. Last week we discussed in detail the 6<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup> verses of Philippians Chapter 4 and learned “The ‘How To’ of \_\_\_\_\_ and why this is an important goal for us individually and collectively. We learned and received these important truths and practical “How-To’s”:
  - **1<sup>st</sup> = INSTEAD OF WORRYING, \_\_\_\_\_.** (Verses 6 & 7) Believers who take their anxiety to God in prayer discover the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
    - When the problem is worry, the prescription is \_\_\_\_\_, PROPER THINKING, and PROPER \_\_\_\_\_.
    - The opposite of \_\_\_\_\_ is WORRY.
    - The Greek word for ANXIOUS means to have “a mind divided” between LEGITIMATE \_\_\_\_\_ and DESTRUCTIVE \_\_\_\_\_.
    - DESTRUCTIVE \_\_\_\_\_ will choke out the Word of God and cause believers to abandon trust.
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> = KEEP YOUR \_\_\_\_\_ OCCUPIED WITH GOOD THINGS. (Verse 8)**
    - The Greek word MEDITATE means “to ponder, consider, value, give proper weight to.”
    - Right \_\_\_\_\_ will win the battle against worry.
  - **3<sup>rd</sup> = PUT INTO PRACTICE WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN IN GOD’S WORD. (Verse 9)**
    - Ultimate success in life will come as we \_\_\_\_\_ the Word. (James 1:21 – 25).
- In no place does the Bible say we are to worry about anything. WORRY IS A SIN!
- Many seem to think that their worry somehow aids the plan of God – it doesn’t help, it hinders!
- **THE PRAYER OF FAITH WON’T WORK IF YOU ARE ANXIOUS & \_\_\_\_\_.**
- **WHEN WE ARE UNDER PRESSURE, OUR MINDS WANT TO \_\_\_\_\_.** **WHEN WE ARE BORED, OUR MINDS WANT TO \_\_\_\_\_.**

**THE PEACE OF CONTENTMENT:**

- After thanking the Philippians for their love offering, Paul teaches how to live free from the \_\_\_\_\_ of external circumstances.
- Real Christian \_\_\_\_\_ comes through: (1) The \_\_\_\_\_ of God who **support** each other (“...**your care for me has flourished...**”); and (2) Through the \_\_\_\_\_ of God that **strengthens** a person.
  - How do we support each other in a Christian context? (1) by our **FAITHFUL SOWING** of our *time, talent* and *treasure* (2) by our **FRUITFUL SHOWING** of our spiritual growth in *love, faith* and *patience* (cheerful endurance) and (3) by our **FINANCIAL SUPPORTING** with our faithful tithes, and our *spontaneous, systematic* and *sacrificial* freewill, love offerings to support **the ministry** and **the ministers**. (Read Galatians 6:6 – 10)
- Paul’s life and words demonstrate that contentment “...**everywhere and in all things...**” is (1<sup>st</sup>) a \_\_\_\_\_ behavior; (2<sup>nd</sup>) is not dependent on \_\_\_\_\_ (3<sup>rd</sup>) a state of \_\_\_\_\_, not doing (“...**be content**”) and (4<sup>th</sup>) is based in the riches of \_\_\_\_\_.
- **CONTENTMENT** is a \_\_\_\_\_, cultivated by continually resisting the discontented spirit and attitude of this age; it is not happenstance. **CONTENTMENT** is not a \_\_\_\_\_ or a mood.
- The Greek word for **CONTENTMENT** is also translated “satisfied, adequate, competent, or sufficient”. It is BEING “inwardly sufficient and without covetousness”.
  - Charles Kelley defines it like this:” Christian contentment is the God-given ability to be satisfied with the loving provision of God in any and every situation.”
  - Happiness is temporary and fleeting. **JOY** and \_\_\_\_\_ are eternal.
- Self-sufficiency in Christ’s sufficiency combined with \_\_\_\_\_ produces confidence, but without **CONTENTMENT**, self-sufficiency is nothing more than arrogance.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is what separates the mature Christian from the sinner and carnal Christian-believer. (Read 1 Timothy 6:3 – 10)

**THE FRUIT OF PARTNERSHIP:**

- Paul recounts the history of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Philippians and their single-minded, united support of his ministry which will bear much fruit. (Vs 14)
  - They (the Philippians) made themselves a partner with Paul’s tribulation and affliction.
- While self-sufficiency in Christ’s sufficiency is the \_\_\_\_\_ of each believer, we must always be \_\_\_\_\_, watching, and \_\_\_\_\_ to help others.
- In his gratitude to the Philippians for their gift to him, Paul summarizes three benefactors of blessing when God’s people \_\_\_\_\_: (1) The recipient of the gift is blessed - “**I have all and abound**” and (2) God is honored – “**well pleasing to God**” (4:18) and (3) the giver is blessed – “**the fruit that abounds to your account**”.
- God’s promise to supply the Philippians’ needs is: \_\_\_\_\_ - **my God**. It is \_\_\_\_\_ - **shall supply**. It is \_\_\_\_\_ - **all your need**. It is \_\_\_\_\_ - **according to His riches in glory**. And it is \_\_\_\_\_ - **in Christ Jesus**. This is how God meets people’s needs today as well.

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