

HOW TO BE CONTENT

PHIL. 4:10-14

Introduction:

- A. What is the secret to a life of contentment?
 - 1. Some would say it is having enough wealth to satisfy every desire.
 - 2. Some would say it is giving up everything in the world, a life of denial and poverty.

- B. Paul did not believe that it was in either.
 - 1. "I know how to get along with humble means."
 - 2. "and I know how to face prosperity."
 - 3. "for I have learned to be content in whatever situation I am."
 - 4. Suppose things change.

- C. What is it that Paul had learned?
 - 1. "I can do all things through Christ?"
 - 2. "I can be content, no matter the circumstances," but this is only by the strength Christ supplies.

I. PAUL REJOICED IN THE OFFERING GIVEN HIM BY THE PHILIPPIANS.
V10.

- A. Paul had learned contentment but this did not relieve the Philippians of their duty.
 - 1. Their care was revived.
 - 2. Epaphroditus had brought him money.
 - 3. They had never quit caring but they lacked opportunity to show it.

- B. A church must never use this as a reason to withhold support from their pastor.
 - 1. I Cor. 9:13-14.
 - 2. This support is ordained of God.

- C. Paul was not afraid of starving to death! v11
 - 1. "Not that I speak in respect of want."
 - 2. "Do not think that I am saying this under pressure of want."
 - 3. It was not Paul's need that should motivate them to give, but their concept of the office.
 - 4. It was fruit to their account, not his. v17

II. PAUL HAD LEARNED HOW TO BE CONTENT. V11b

- A. Paul had known bounty and hunger. v12
 - 1. "I know how to live when things are difficult."
 - 2. abase = to bring low, to humble.
 - 3. Paul had been humiliated in every conceivable way.

- C. Paul had learned this secret. v12
 - 1. "in everything and in all things I have learned the secret, both to be filled and to be hungry."
 - 2. "for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."
 - 3. learned = to learn by study and observation.
 - 4. This was not a "gift" from God!
 - 5. Most people are not willing to learn.
 - a. Turn off the T.V. for one month for \$400.00, half would say, no!

III. WHAT HAD PAUL LEARNED? WHAT GAVE HIM THE POWER TO BE CONTENT? V13

- A. Paul learned by experience that he could handle abundance through Christ's power.
 - 1. How do people maintain their humility in great wealth? Christ strengthens them!
 - 2. He was full among the hungry.
 - 3. This can be a stumbling block.

- b. Paul learned that with Christ's power he could suffer hunger.

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1. He was hungry before the full.
 2. Such may embarrass and humiliate.
- C. This strength is not the strength and power of God to do what you want, but what He wants!
1. Baseball, football, weigh-lifters.
 2. The world's strongest man, who claimed Jesus gave him power was beaten by a Russian! [article].]
- D. God will never give divine power to do devilish deeds!
Or at times good deeds!
1. He will never give His power to break His word.
 2. He gives His power to do His work.

IV. PAUL WAS GLAD THEY HELPED HIM. V14

- A. "Notwithstanding ye have done well."
1. Paul commends them for their help.
 2. "still I think you did the right thing."
- B. "that ye did communicate with my affliction."
1. "for taking your share in my troubles."
 2. It is always right to do right!

V. WE SHOULD SEEK THIS CONTENTMENT.

- A. Paul wrote to Timothy.
1. I Tim. 6:6.
- B. We can learn to be content if we allow Him to strengthen us.

