

Lesson 8 Outline

Philippians 4:10-20

Theme: Contentment

Opening Review:

- Last week focused on peace in Philippians 4:1-9.
- Three things that disrupt peace:
 - Animosity with others
 - Anxiety and worry
 - Spiritual apathy
- This lesson moves from peace to contentment.
- Peace and contentment are closely connected.

1. Godly Contentment Does Not Depend on Comfort Level

Philippians 4:10-13

- Paul rejoiced that the Philippian church had revived their concern for him.
- They had wanted to help him before, but lacked the opportunity.
- Paul makes it clear that his contentment was not based on whether he had plenty or was in need.

Key Truth:

- Contentment is not dependent on circumstances.
- Paul had learned to be content in every situation:

- Being brought low
- Abounding
- Hunger
- Plenty
- Abundance
- Need

Philippians 4:13

“I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”

What this means:

- This verse is about Christ giving strength for contentment and faithfulness.
- It does not mean we can accomplish every personal goal or desire.
- It means Christ gives strength to:
 - Obey what He commands
 - Do what He calls us to do
 - Endure every situation through His strength

Illustration:

- A thermometer changes based on the atmosphere around it.
- A thermostat changes the atmosphere based on its setting.
- Godly contentment means our hearts are set on Christ, not controlled by circumstances.

Application:

- Ask God to set your heart on Him.
- Do not surrender your peace and contentment to changing circumstances.

- Let Christ shape your inner life so you can remain steady.

2. Godly Contentment Does Not Mean Independent Living

Philippians 4:14-17

- Paul was thankful for the Philippians' partnership and generosity.
- They helped him when others did not.
- Paul was not seeking gifts for selfish gain, but rejoiced in the spiritual fruit of their giving.

Key Truth:

- Contentment does not mean living isolated or independent from others.
- God often uses people to provide, encourage, and support His work.
- Ministry and mission require resources.
- Giving is part of participating in God's kingdom work.

Application:

- We are not called to live like spiritual loners.
- Godly contentment happens in fellowship with other believers.
- We should both receive help with humility and give help with joy.
- When we give toward God's work, we are making an eternal investment.

3. Godly Contentment Does Not Mistake the True Provider

Philippians 4:18-20

- Paul received the gifts sent through Epaphroditus.
- He described their gift as:

- A fragrant offering
- A sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God
- Paul reminded them that God would supply every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Key Truth:

- God is the true provider.
- People may be the vessels, but God is the source.
- We can be thankful for people while giving glory to God.

Application:

- Do not place ultimate trust in people's hands.
- Trust the hands of God.
- God provides in His way and in His timing.
- Contentment grows when we believe God is faithful to supply what we truly need.

Final Reminder:

- Being content does not mean we stop praying for circumstances to change.
- We can pray for God to change situations while still trusting Him.
- We can ask, seek, and knock with confidence because we are His children.

Closing Thought:

- Godly contentment is learned through experience.
- It is rooted in Christ, not comfort.
- It is lived in community, not isolation.
- It gives glory to God as the true provider.

- Through Christ, we can remain steady in every circumstance.