

PHILIPPIANS



JOY IN
CHRIST

Abased and Abounding: A Study in the School of Contentment Philippians 4:10-14

1. Read **Philippians 4:10-11; Luke 3:7-14**. Is contentment just a state of mind or something we are commanded to pursue in our faith? How does John the Baptist's interaction with the crowds help us answer this? What does contentment have to do with our repentance? What three groups of people came to question John? Were their obstacles to contentment the same? What does this tell us about our struggle to find contentment?
2. Read **Philippians 4:12**. Does contentment come naturally? What does Paul using the phrase "I have learned" twice in consecutive verses tell us? Read the following passages. What do they help us learn in our search for contentment?
 - Self (**Galatians 6:3; Romans 3:23; John 15:5; 2 Corinthians 4:7; 1 Timothy 6:7**)
 - Creature/Created (**Romans 1:25**)
 - What is (Really) Necessary (**Romans 5:1; Isaiah 55:7; Micah 7:18-19; Psalm 16:5; Psalm 73:26**)
 - Our Surroundings (**Philippians 3:20; Hebrews 11:13-16**)
 - Our Hearts (**Psalm 139:23-24; Proverbs 30:8-9; Acts 17:16; 1 John 5:21**)
 - God's Providence (**Genesis 50:18-20; Psalm 57:2; Acts 17:26-28; Romans 8:28**)
 - God's Promises (**Joshua 23:14; Jeremiah 29:11; Romans 10:9; 2 Corinthians 1:20; 1 John 1:9**)

3. Read **Philippians 4:13**. When Paul says he “can do all things”, what does he mean? What doesn’t he mean? How does verse 12 help us interpret him rightly?
4. Read **Philippians 4:14; Galatians 6:2; James 2:15-16**. In what way did the Philippians do well to share in Paul’s affliction? The Greek word for “share” in verse 14 comes from the same root word translated as “participation/partnership” in **Philippians 1:5**, as well as the word translated as “partakers” in **Philippians 1:7**. What do these verses tell us about what sharing in affliction has to do with sharing the gospel? Sharing in God’s grace?

O Lord, How Full of Sweet Content

by Madame Guyon

1648-1717

O Lord, how full of sweet content
Our years of pilgrimage are spent!
Where’er we dwell, we dwell with Thee,
In heaven, in earth, or on the sea.

To us remains nor place nor time;
Our country is in every clime!
We can be calm and free from care
On any shore, since God is there.

While place we seek, or place we shun,
The soul finds happiness in none;
But with our God to guide our way,
‘Tis equal joy to go or stay.

Could we be cast where Thou art not,
That were indeed a dreadful lot;
But regions none remote we call,
Secure of finding God in all.