Philippians 2026 – Week 8 – Philippians 4:10-23

Philippians 4:10-13: *I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it.* ***11*** *I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.* ***12*** *I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.* ***13*** *I can do all this through him who gives me strength.*

INTRO to **Philippians**: The letter of Philippians is the perfect starting place for biblical teaching on following Christ as a disciple. This letter speaks to obedience and faithfulness in the life of the individual believer, and the importance of being healthy and unified in the Church. Philippians presents God's instructions in a warm and encouraging tone, as believers are challenged to conduct ourselves at all times and in all places "in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ."

INTRO to **Philippians 4:10-23**: As this beautiful and excellent letter from the New Testament concludes, we are reminded of the all-sufficiency of Jesus Christ in the life of the believer.

I. Christ is our strength in every season. (vs. 10)

-**vs. 10** is a picture of the love of Christ being revealed in the Body of Christ, the Church. The Apostle Paul is deeply moved by the care shown to him by the Philippian believers. This verse reminds us of the importance of building each other up in Christ with every opportunity (see **Hebrews 3:13** below).

-Paul's desire and ability to "be content" and to "rejoice in the Lord" in all circumstances came from his deep and faithful journey with Christ and through many difficulties.

-True joy is not found in *things*. True joy is found in *Christ*—this is the indestructible joy!

-Most importantly, however, his strength at all times, in every place, and in all circumstances came from Christ in him.

-**Philippians 4:13** is often misused to encourage others to "be strong" in themselves with the Lord's help, as opposed to finding their true strength in Christ.

-There are <u>two important ways</u> to read this verse:

1.) IN CONTEXT – Paul is not talking about achieving earthly goals, but rather drawing strength from Christ alone to remain content and joyful in all things.

2.) AS THE VERSE IS WRITTEN PLAINLY AND SIMPLY: “all things—I can do—by—the One—strengthening me.”

This verse is not about self-sufficiency; it is about Christ sufficiency, which results in true joy, peace, and contentment. (Gordon Fee)

II. Christ is faithful to meet our every need. (vs. 14-19)

-In these verses, the Apostle Paul gives a clear description of how loyal and generous the believers in the Philippian Church were to him, even at times when it put them in danger.

-It’s clear why Paul had said earlier in the letter: *“I thank my God every time I remember you.”* (**1:3**)

-Paul believes their generosity to him will be rewarded by God (*credited to your account*) and he also describes their gifts as a “*fragrant offering,*” “*an acceptable sacrifice*,” and “*pleasing to God*” (**vs. 17-18**).

1.) fragrant offering – like those offered by Noah, Aaron, and the priests in the Old Testament – the aroma pleased the Lord.

2.) acceptable sacrifice – like the sacrifices of the harvest or of the heart which were accepted by God and worshipful to His name.
3.) pleasing to God – that which is given and assigned the highest value because of their spiritual significance according the Lord’s divine measurement.

-**vs. 19** is one of the most complete and hopeful promises in all of Scripture: *And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.*

III. In Christ, the glory and grace of God are revealed to us and present with us. (vs. 20-23)

-In the final verses, there are a doxology of praise to the Lord (**vs. 20**), a final salutation to all those in the Church at Philippi (**vs. 21-22**), and a final blessing (**vs. 23**).

-The Book Philippians begins with a blessing (**1:1-2**) and closes with a blessing – **vs. 23:** *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.*

<u>Other Scriptures Referenced:</u>

Hebrews 3:13: *But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.*

Proverbs 30:7-9 (words of Agur): *Two things I ask of you; don't deny them to me before I die:* ***8*** *Keep falsehood and deceitful words far from me. Give me neither poverty nor wealth; feed me with the food I need.* ***9*** *Otherwise, I might have too much and deny you, saying, "Who is the Lord?" or I might have nothing and steal, profaning the name of my God.*

Habakkuk 3:17-18:
Though the fig tree does not bud
and there are no grapes on the vines,
though the olive crop fails
and the fields produce no food,
though there are no sheep in the pen
and no cattle in the stalls,
18 *yet I will rejoice in the Lord,*
I will be joyful in God my Savior.

<u>Other Quotes/Resources:</u>

"Present Tense" by Jason Lehman (14 years old)

It was spring, but it was summer I wanted, The warm days, and the great outdoors.
It was summer, but it was fall I wanted, The colorful leaves, and the cool, dry air.
It was fall, but it was winter I wanted,
The beautiful snow, and the joy of the holiday season.
It was now winter, but it was spring I wanted, The warmth, and the blossoming of nature.

I was a child, but it was adulthood I wanted, The freedom, and the respect.
I was 20, but it was 30 I wanted, To be mature, and sophisticated.
I was middle-aged, but it was 20 I wanted, The youth, and the free spirit.
I was retired, but it was middle age that I wanted, The presence of mind, without limitations.
My life was over, but I never got what I wanted.