



Philippians 4:10-23

November 22, 2020

“I press on toward the goal
for the prize of the upward call of God in
Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:14

Begin with prayer. “Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law” (Psalm 119:18).

In our study of the letter to the Philippians we've been challenged to press on in the Christian life. Through Paul, God has called us to rejoice in suffering, to center our purpose for living on Christ and to be in unity with our brothers and sisters in Christ. In this last section of Philippians chapter 4, we'll see that pressing on with joy, contentment, and generosity comes from trusting Christ's strength and God's provision.

Learning Contentment

Read Philippians 4:10-13.

[Q] How much does your joy and contentment depend on your circumstances? Do you believe that a nice house, or more money, or a better job or health, a better spouse or children are the missing ingredients that will make you content? What do you truly think you need to experience more joy?

"Contentment is not complacency, nor is it a false peace based on ignorance. The complacent believer is unconcerned about others, while the contented Christian wants to share his blessings."

Warren Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*

[Q] How specifically does one draw strength from Christ to be content whatever the situation (v. 13)?

[Q] Verse 13 is often taken out of context and used to support the ability of Christians to do various miracles or take on something for which the person is too busy or ill-equipped. What are the “all things” in the previous verses that Paul can do through Christ who strengthens him?
See 2 Corinthians 12:9-10.

[Q] What are areas of your life where you are doing things in your own strength, not through Christ who strengthens you? This week, how can you strive to do all things through Christ, relying on His strength?

Growing in Generosity

Read Philippians 4:14-18.

[Q] How does Paul describe the Philippians' giving in v. 14 and v. 18?

We can see a general pattern for Christian giving from these verses.

- They gave relationally—supporting Paul in many ways, not just with money.
- They gave together as a church.
- They gave generously, even when others were not.
- They gave consistently—supporting him in the bad times as well as the good.
- And they gave wanting to please God.

[Q] How might generosity to God's work give you perspective on both your life and the broader world?

Trusting God's Provision

Read Philippians 4:19-23.

[Q] What fears do you have when it comes to money? How can you fight fear with the promises of God?
Read Romans 8:32. What has God already given to us?

Take time this Thanksgiving week to reflect on God's provision and return thanks to him. Consider whether God is calling you to change your giving practices and invite Him to bring you more opportunities for sacrificial giving.¹

Conclusion

We've reached the end of this wonderful letter, so a brief pause to review: What examples does Paul want us to follow as Christians as we press on?

- What should our attitude be (2:1-5)?
- How will we stand firm as Christians (4:1)?
- How will we be joyful as Christians?

Pray that these things would be true for you and our church.

Read further: *The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment* by Jeremiah Burroughs and *The Art of Divine Contentment* by Thomas Watson.

¹ Jeffrey E. Miller, *Philippians: Confident in Christ*, Not Your Average Bible Study (Bible Study Magazine, 2017), 66.