**No Matter What – A Study In The Book Of Philippians**

**~Philippians 4:10-23 – Thoughts On Contentment And The Gospel~**

**\*\* As we begin:**

* Joy and rejoicing has been the theme to this book. Today we finish up discussing contentment, along with reminding ourselves of the need to be thankful when other people help us and to never think the Good News about Jesus is not reaching people, sometimes in ways we would not expect.
* Vs. 10 tells us that the Philippian church was concerned for Paul but had not had the opportunity to help. That had changed, and they sent Epaphroditus to minister to him.
* The word “revived” in vs. 10 means “to grow green again, flourish again, to renew.” Paul was not scolding the church but things had changed and the people at Philippi could now help him.
* **Point:** Because an opportunity may not have opened up previously does not mean that it will not open in the future or that because we did not see something happen in our timetable, make the decision that it will never happen.

**Thoughts On Contentment, Others, And The Gospel**

**Contentment comes only through a close tie with God – Phil. 4:11-13**

* Many people are discontent. They are unhappy about life and they complain and gripe.
* Some folks are bitter and self-absorbed. Life revolves around them.
* The key is found in **vs. 11** where we read that Paul “learned” contentment. The word “learned” means “to learn by use and practice; to be in the habit of.” At some point in Paul’s life the light came on, and he had learned to be content.
* It is not just about gaining knowledge. As we practice contentment, being thankful for what we do have, when we may not have everything we want, we learn over time to rest in Christ and the fact He will take care of us.
* The word for “learned” in **vs. 12** is different than the word in **vs. 11**. Here it means “to teach fully, to learn a lesson.”
* It comes from a word that described being “initiated into the mysteries” and Paul, had by his experiences in life “initiated” into “being content.” (Bible Knowledge Commentary.
* We, like Paul did, must make the conscious effort to allow the Lord to help us walk through any situation, trusting God to meet our needs and to give us what we need **(Mt. 6:33)**.
* **Point: Vs. 13** tells us that the ability to be content is because of God’s power and strength dwelling in us. This requires dependence and trust in God.

**Acknowledging the help of others keeps the church strong – Phil. 4:14-20**

* Paul notes the kindness of this church in **vs. 14**. The word “share” can be translated “fellowship, joining with others, sympathize actively with.” The people saw Paul’s need and wanted to help.
* We must do the same. Be kind and look for opportunities to help others.
* In **vss. 15-16** there is thankfulness that the church help Paul in spreading the Good News about Jesus.
* **Vs. 17** tells us that God honors churches when they are willing to give to God’s work.
* **Vss. 17-18** remind us that God is glorified when we support His work.
* **Point:** When we help others, it does increase our willingness to look for other opportunities to serve and support others.
* **Vs. 19** tells us that God would take care of the church at Philippi, as He will with other churches, and meet the needs that a faithful church may have. **Vs. 20** tells us that it is all about God.
* **Point:** Thank people for their service. Make sure our motives behind serving are in line with the Lord, that it is about Him, not us. Do not take people for granted and do not serve to get noticed.

**The Good News works in unexpected places – Phil. 4:21-23**

* Paul finishes his letter by sending greetings from the saints, especially those of Caesars’s household **(vs. 22)**. There were Christians working in the palace of the emperor.
* This statement may have included soldiers who guarded Paul as well.
* We must never limit God or think that He cannot work in a situation.
* **Point:** Never think God cannot change lives. Do not allow what we think or see to convince us otherwise. The Lord is at work all over the world.