

PREACHING CURRICULUM



SERMON TITLE: Be Content

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 4:10-23

In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.

1

REVIEW THE SERMON

Read Philippians 4:10-13. What was the secret Paul had learned? What is significant about the fact that he had to learn this secret, rather than it coming to him automatically at his conversion?

See verse 13. When Paul says "I can do all things through him who strengthens me", what is he talking about? What does he *not mean by this statement*? How is this verse commonly misapplied?

Read Philippians 4:14-18. Although Paul was undoubtedly thankful for the money the Philippian church had sent him, why was he really interested in promoting their generosity? What was his end goal?

From these few verses, what can we learn about a proper Christian perspective on money and material possessions? According to Paul, what is the ultimate purpose for our material resources?

Read Philippians 4:19-23. Why does God get the glory when we share our material resources with others?

2

ASSESS YOUR LIFE

In general, how content are you with your life? Do you struggle with contentment when your life is not going as you planned? Why or why not?

What opportunities have you had to show practical loving concern for others? How often do you tend to think of the needs of others?

3

APPLY THE TRUTH

How might we come to learn the secret of contentment which Paul learned? How can we learn to be content no matter the outward circumstances? Why is that particularly challenging for us modern Westerners?

What opportunities do you have to show practical love and concern for others? How might you take advantage of those opportunities?

4

COMMIT THIS WEEK

Have you identified any opportunities to bless someone this week? How are you going to follow through on them?