

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS – LESSON 11
PHILIPPIANS 4:10-23
WEEK OF DECEMBER 1 – DECEMBER 6
CONTENTMENT AND THANKSGIVING

The letter to the Philippians is a long thank you note from Paul for the gifts carried by Epaphroditus from the Philippian church to bless and provide for Paul's needs. In these 4 chapters of Philippians, Paul expresses his deep joy and contentment resulting not from his circumstances but from knowing Christ, deeply and intimately. In **Philippians 4:10-23**, Paul closes his Philippian letter reflecting on the significance of the gift from them while at the same time he communicates his unshakeable contentment found in Christ alone.

1. What caused Paul to rejoice in the Lord greatly from **Philippians 4:10**?
2. In **Phil. 4:11**, Paul uses the word content which speaks of being sufficient, having enough, or to be satisfied. In **verses 11-12**, what does Paul say about the relationship between his contentment and his circumstances?

“Paul was content because he knew that the times, seasons and opportunities of life are controlled by the sovereign God “who works all things after the council is will” (Eph. 1:11), thereby causing “all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28). Those who seek to control their own lives will inevitably be frustrated. A confident trust in God's providence is foundational to contentment.” [MacArthur New Testament Commentary Philippians](#), page 298.

3. According to **Philippians 4:13** and **Ephesians 3:16**, where does the believer find their strength that affects their contentment and ability to endure difficulties?
4. Often, we don't experience that strength that comes from the Lord (**Phil.4:13**) Unless we encounter challenges or great distress. From **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**, how does Paul illustrate that from his experience?

Puritan Jeremiah Burroughs writes: “*Christian contentment is that sweet inward, quiet, gracious frame of spirit, which freely submits to and delights in God's wise and fatherly disposal in every condition.*”

5. From **versus 14-16**, what do you learn about the history of the Philippian support of Paul's ministry?

6. What was the spiritual benefit to the Philippians described in **verse 17** that resulted from the gift to Paul? See **Matthew 6:20** for additional help with your answer.

7. What do the following passages teach about the blessings of giving?
 - **First Timothy 6:17-19**
 - **2 Corinthians 6: umm9-11**
 - **Proverbs 11:24-25**

8. In **verse 18**, how does Paul describe the gift sent by the Philippians?

9. What is it from **verse 18** that motivates your giving?

10. The promise of **Philippians 4:19** is given in the context of the Sacrificial gift made by the Philippians to Paul. What does that reveal about the extent of God's supply to the needs of the Philippians?

11. In **verse 20**, how does Paul respond to the truth and promises of **Philippians 4:13-19**, and more broadly to the truths recorded in the letter to the Philippians?

12. Too often we read Paul's concluding blessings and greetings far too hastily (or even skip). Read **Phil. 4:21-23** carefully and prayerfully. From this expression of greetings and blessings, what words, phrases or truths stand out to you and why?

13. What has personally challenged you from the study of these passages?