

PHILIPPIANS 4:10-23

Review your memory verses: Philippians 1:6, 2:3-11, verse of your choice from 3:12-4:1, 4:6-7.

Memorize Philippians 4:11 or 4:13.

Read the letter to the Philippians all the way through.

Read Philippians 4:10-23 again.

1. Most of us know very few people who appear to be genuinely content.
 - a. How do we usually think contentment is gained?

 - b. What were Paul's circumstances when he wrote this about contentment?

2. Find all Paul says about how he has become content.

3. How does Philippians 4:6-8 and James 5:13 tie in with being content?

4. In Philippians 4:11 Paul uses the phrase "I have learned." What does this suggest to you about contentment?

5. Beginning in verse 10, Paul expresses gratitude for the help the Christians in Philippi have sent him in Rome. According to this verse what do you know about their concern for him?
6. What do you know about their concern for Paul from verses 15 and 16?
7. If Paul has truly learned to be content in the midst of both meager and plenteous circumstances, why is he so joyful that indeed *they* sent *him* a gift (verses 17-20)?
8. Read Genesis 8:20-21. Noah offered up an actual animal sacrifice which was a soothing aroma to God. What did the Philippians do that Paul described as "a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice and well pleasing to God?"
9. Why would this have been so well pleasing to God? (Looking again at Philippians 2:1-8 will help.)
10. Remembering that the church at Philippi knew poverty, how is their giving related to the promise in 4:19?
11. What is God saying *to you* through this passage about meeting the needs of others –
 - a. in principle?

- b. in some *specific* instance(s) in your life?

 - c. regarding our missionary friends?
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12. What does this passage teach you about allowing others to meet *your* needs?

 13. How does verse 20 fit in here?

 14. What can you learn from the concluding greetings (verses 21-23)?

 15. The main teaching of these verses (4:10-23) seems to fall into two big ideas. Please write a couple of sentences summarizing what you've learned about *each*.

 16. At the present time which idea was most meaningful to you and why?