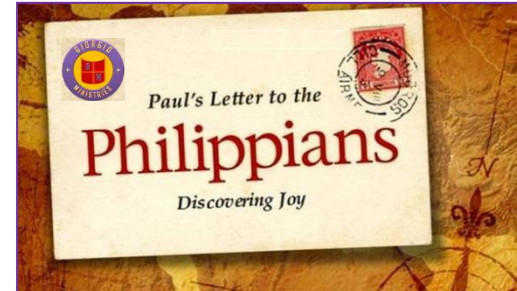




Philippians

Joy In Christ

Lesson 13



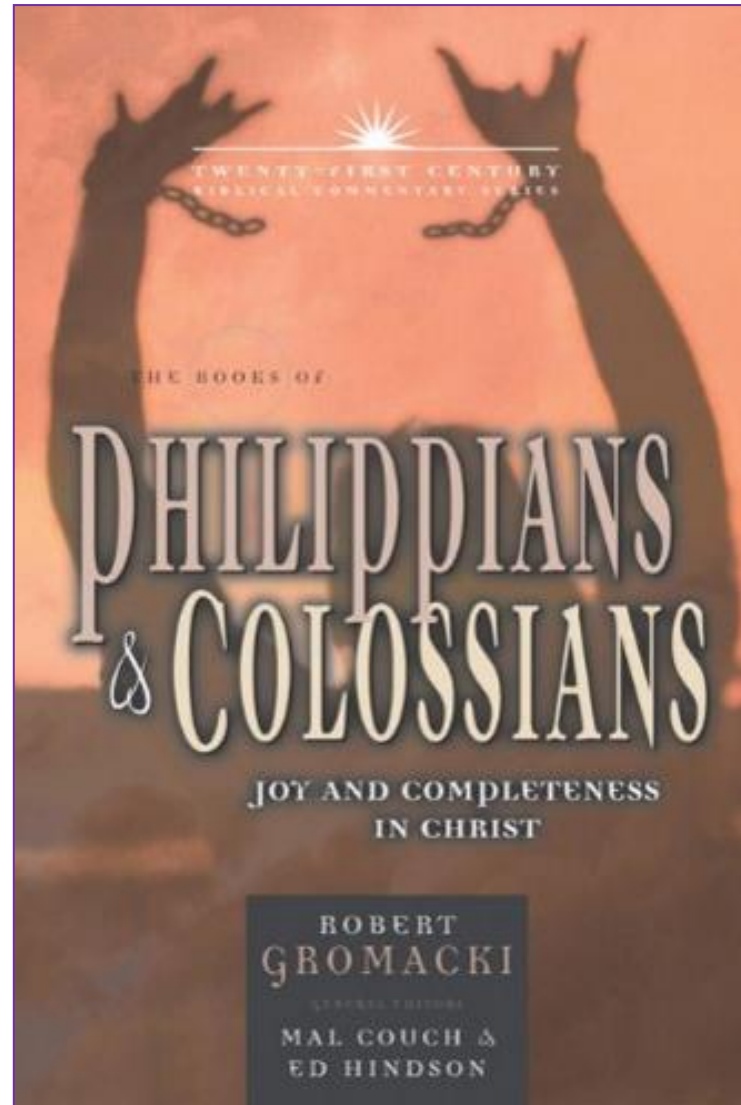
The Joy of Contentment

Philippians 4:10-23

Philip Giorgio

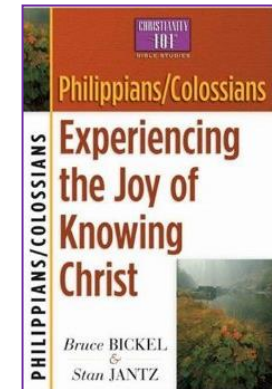
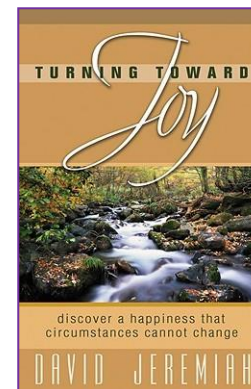
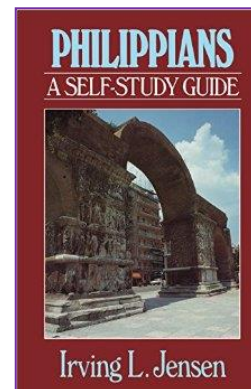
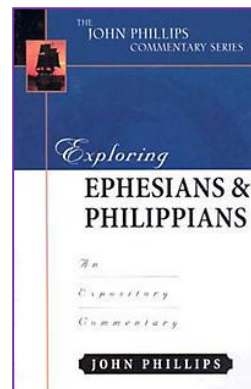
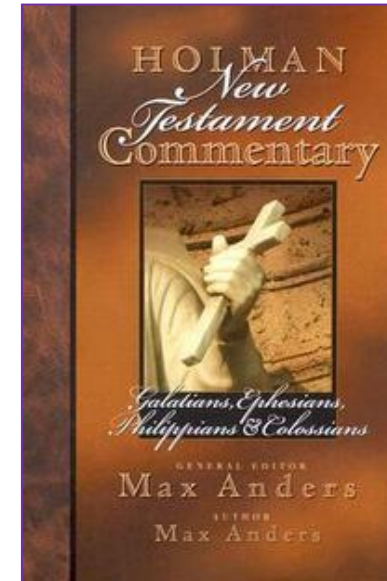
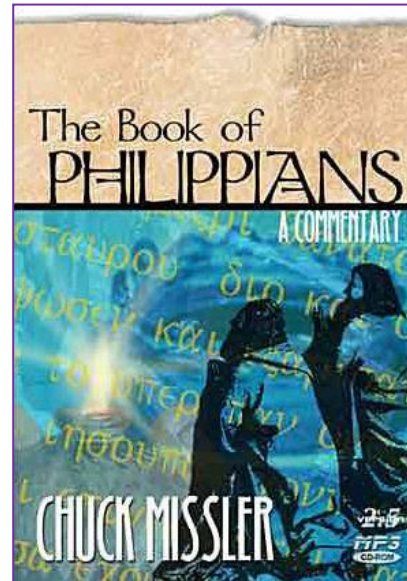


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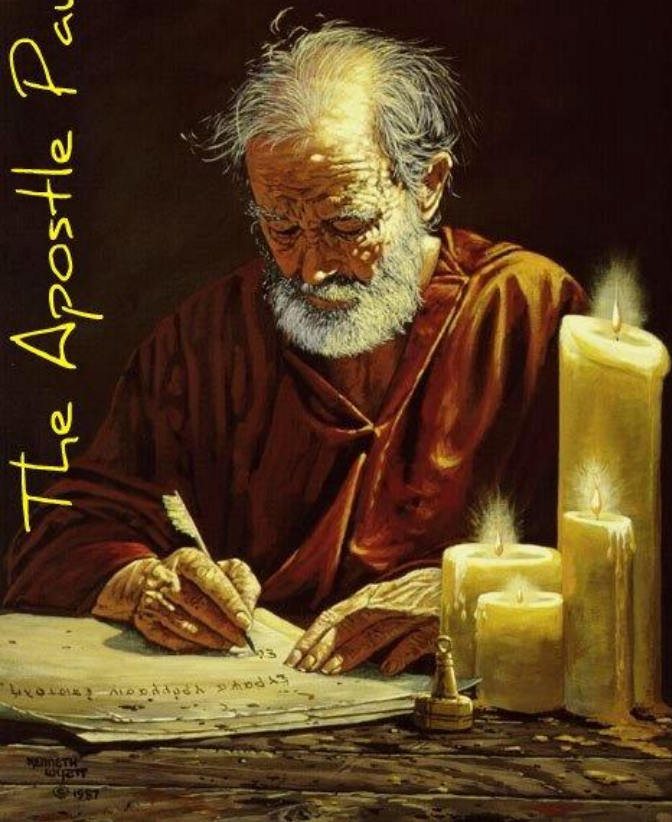




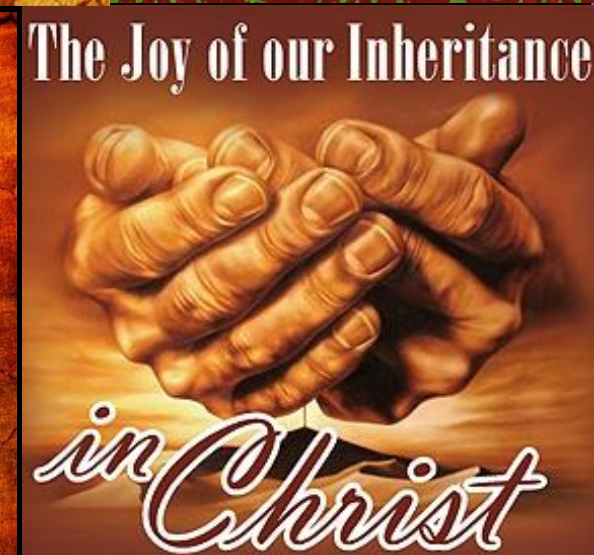
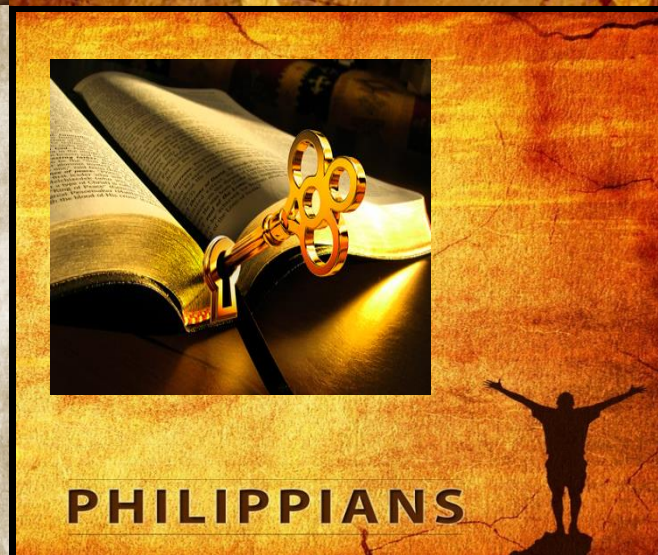
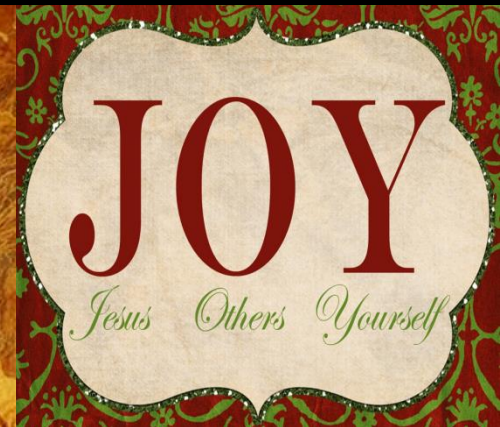
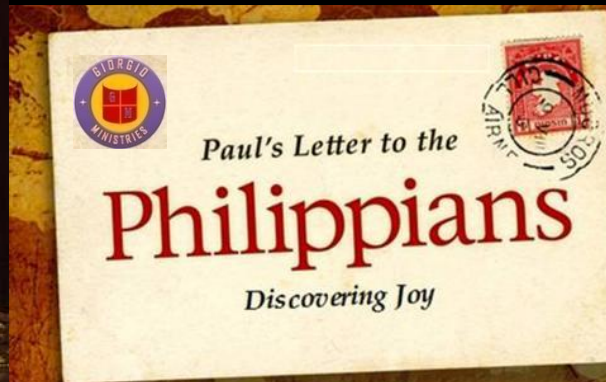
References



The Apostle Paul



Philippians





Course Outline

Course Outline - Lessons

■ Philippians: Joy In Christ

- Lesson 01: Introduction [PHILIPPIANS]
- Lesson 02: The Prayer..... [PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11]
- Lesson 03: Opportunity of Obstacles [PHILIPPIANS 1:12-19]
- Lesson 04: Blessings of Life and Death [PHILIPPIANS 1:20-26]
- Lesson 05: Challenge to the Church [PHILIPPIANS 1:27-2:4]
- Lesson 06: Humiliation and Exaltation [PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11]
- Lesson 07: Marks of Humble Service [PHILIPPIANS 2:12-16]
- Lesson 08: Three Examples of Humility [PHILIPPIANS 2:17-30]
- Lesson 09: Danger of Legalism [PHILIPPIANS 3:1-6]
- Lesson 10: The Joy of Salvation [PHILIPPIANS 3:7-14]
- Lesson 11: The Joy of Maturity [PHILIPPIANS 3:15-21]
- Lesson 12: The Joy of Peace [PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9]
- Lesson 13: The Joy of Contentment [PHILIPPIANS 4:10-23]

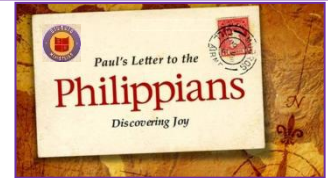


Lesson Outline

Lesson 13 - Outline

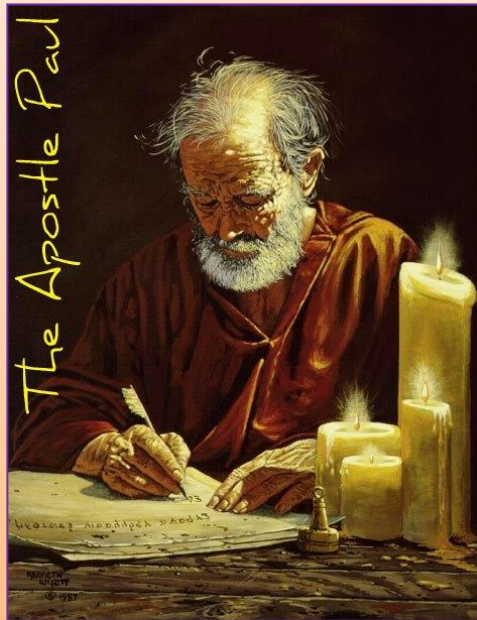
■ Philippians: Joy In Christ

• Lesson 13: The Joy of Contentment



• STRUCTURE

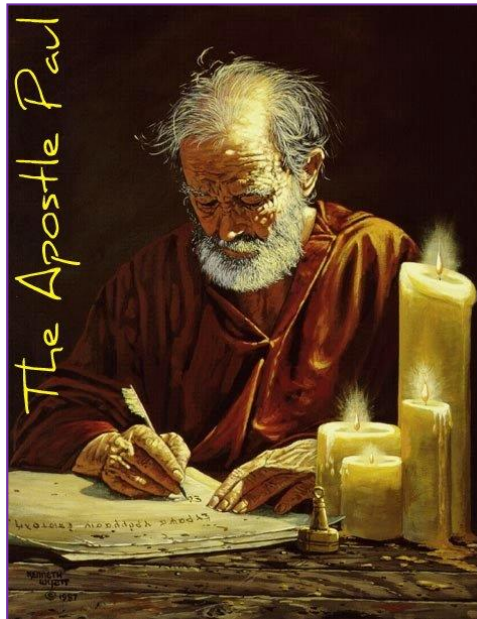
- ➔ » Lesson Preview Introduction
- » Philippians Generosity Philippians 4:10-20
- » Greeting And Blessing Philippians 4:21-23



Lesson Preview - INTRODUCTION

• Preview ... THE JOY OF CONTENTMENT

Paul commends the Philippians on their renewed support of him financially. He explains that, through the strengthening of the Lord, he is able to be content in prosperity or in humility. His concern, however, is not for the money but for the Philippians to gain blessings from their faithful giving. He closes with heartfelt greetings to all the brethren, emphasizing that all of our needs are met through the riches of the Lord bestowed on us.

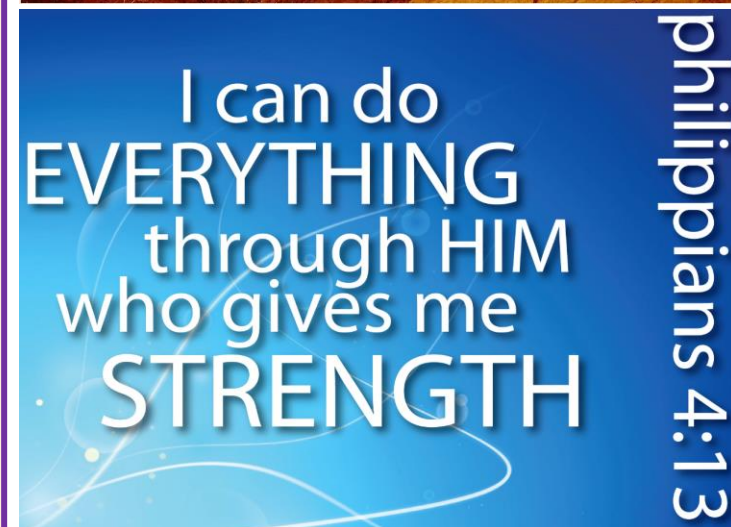
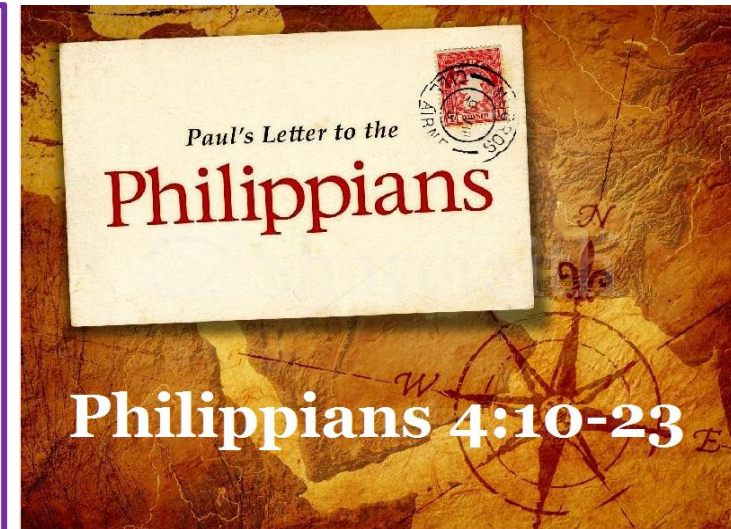


Lesson Preview - INTRODUCTION

One major cause of anxiety is **money** - too much of it or too little of it. The rich worry about losing it and the poor worry about getting it. **Money** in itself is morally neutral - it is the love of **money** that is the root of all kinds of evil (1 Timothy 6:10).

God has promised to provide us with our needs, not our desires. **Christ** assured **His** disciples that the heavenly **Father** would always supply food, drink and clothing for **His** own (Matthew 6:25, 31).

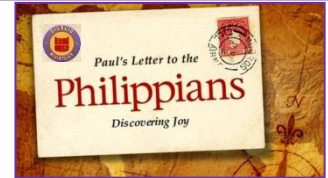
In this section Paul rejoices in **God's** faithfulness to meet his **financial** needs through their gift sent to him by the church.



Lesson 13 - Outline

■ Philippians: Joy In Christ

• Lesson 13: The Joy of Contentment

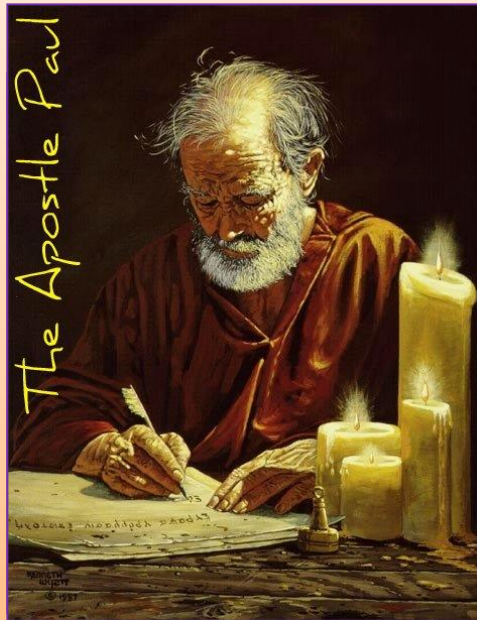


• STRUCTURE

» Lesson Preview *Introduction*

➔ » Philippians Generosity *Philippians 4:10-20*

» Greeting And Blessing *Philippians 4:21-23*



Philippians Generosity - Philippians 4:10 - OBSERVATIONS

10 I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it.

-- Philippians 4:10 ... NKJV

Rejoice

• Paul's Attitude Toward the Gift (4:10-13)

- The church sent Epaphroditus as its messenger to give Paul some financial assistance. His return afforded the apostle an **opportunity** to thank the church in writing.
- Paul rejoiced in the Philippian's renewal of interest (4:10). He **REJOICED IN THE LORD GREATLY** when he received their gift. Rejoicing is usually not self-initiated; it is cause by someone or something.

ARE YOU THE CAUSE FOR SOMEONE ELSE'S REJOICING?

- Paul rejoiced when he saw the believers' personal interest in him.
- The phrase "**WERE CONCERNED**" literally means "the act of thinking on behalf of me". He was in their thoughts constantly.
- Their care for him was "**RENEWED**".

Philippians Generosity - Philippians 4:11-12 - OBSERVATIONS

11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

-- Philippians 4:11-13 ... NKJV

• Paul Rejoices in the Lessons of Contentment

- He did not rejoice over the amount of the gift.
- He rejoiced more in their thoughtfulness than in their money.
- He was more grateful for the givers than for the gifts.
- Seems today many ministries have this backwards.



Philippians Generosity - Philippians 4:11-12 - OBSERVATIONS

¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be **content** whatever the circumstances.

¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of **being content** in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

¹³ I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

-- Philippians 4:11-13 ... NKJV

• Paul Rejoices in the Lessons of Contentment

- Paul uses **THREE (3)** verbs to describe his total acceptance of his condition.

(1) **"CONTENT"**: he learned to be self-sufficient regardless of whether he had much or little. The word **"CONTENT"** in Greek is a compound word meaning *"self"* and *"sufficient"*.

It means that Paul had learned to manage his financial affairs properly. He controlled the money and did not permit money or the lack of it to decrease his effectiveness of his ministry or the joy of his heart (1 Timothy 6:6,8).

(2) **"GET ALONG WITH HUMBLE MEANS"**: means to be humbled. Paul knew how to get along with humble means as well as how to live in prosperity.

He knew how to get along with little and how to get along with much. He did not become depressed when he found himself in want (2 Corinthians 11:27). The apostle also knew how to receive gifts and how to use that financial assistance.

Philippians Generosity - Philippians 4:11-12 - OBSERVATIONS

¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I **have learned** the **secret** of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

¹³ I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

-- Philippians 4:11-13 ... NKJV

• Paul Rejoices in the Lessons of Contentment

- Paul uses THREE (3) verbs to describe his total acceptance of his condition.

(3) “**HAVE LEARNED**”: Paul was instructed to trust in God regardless of his financial circumstances.

The Greek verb means *“to learn by use and practice; to be in the habit of; accustomed to”*.

Food and money, in either shortage or abundance, did not alter Paul’s spirituality.

CAN THIS BE SAID OF US?

Secret

Philippians Generosity - Philippians 4:13 - OBSERVATIONS

¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

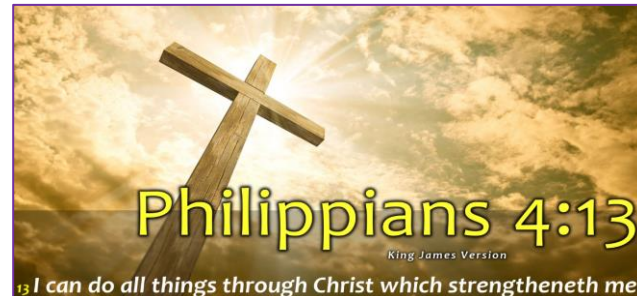
¹³ **I can do** all this **through him** who gives me strength.

-- Philippians 4:11-13 ... NKJV

• Paul Rejoiced in Christ's Enablement

- Paul's statement of confidence ("**I CAN DO**") did not originate from egotistical pride. The Greek verb refers to possessing enough strength of will to control the feelings and the body. He knew divine strength was made perfect through his human weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9). The more dependent on God he became, the stronger he developed.
- Paul's strength came from his **union with Christ**, who had told His disciples that they could do nothing apart from Him (John 15:5). Having enjoyed few material possessions on this earth (Luke 8:3; 9:58), Christ did through Paul what He had achieved Himself.

HE CAN DO THE SAME FOR YOU!



Philippians Generosity - Philippians 4:14 - OBSERVATIONS

14 Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. **15** Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; **16** for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need.

-- Philippians 4:14-16 ... NKJV

• Paul's Evaluation of the Gift (4:14-20)

Paul was thankful for the Philippian believers and he wanted them to know it. The word “**YET**” serves as the transition between divine sufficiency and human means.

PAUL REJOICED OVER THE PHILIPPIAN'S **PRESENT** GIFT (14)

To the Philippian believers Paul said with thanksgiving, “**IT WAS GOOD OF YOU**”.

Whenever people complete a task and do it well, they can have a sense of personal satisfaction and joy (Galatians 6:4).

At the judgment seat, Christ will reward good and faithful servants for doing well (Matthew 25:23).

Philippians Generosity - Philippians 4:15 - OBSERVATIONS

14 Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. **15** Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church **shared** with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; **16** for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need.

-- Philippians 4:14-16 ... NKJV

• Paul's Evaluation of the Gift (4:14-20)

PAUL REJOICED OVER THE PHILIPPIAN'S **PAST** GIFT (15-16)

Paul remembered TWO things they had done for him during his 2nd missionary journey about TEN years earlier (~AD 49-52).

(1) They had written to him about his financial needs after he left their city (4:15). Paul had proclaimed the gospel for several years before he came to Philippi, but their city became the foundation for an evangelistic outreach into Europe, starting with the provinces of Macedonia and Achaia.

Paul never asked for support, but he did not refuse it if it came voluntarily from outside sources. He never took money from the people he was presently ministering.

Only the church at Philippi had "**SHARED**" with him via letters, messengers, and gifts. By this time, other churches were in existence; however, they did not expend the time or effort to discover what his needs were.

Philippians Generosity - Philippians 4:16 - OBSERVATIONS

14 Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. **15** Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; **16** for even when I was in **Thessalonica**, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need.

-- Philippians 4:14-16 ... NKJV

• Paul's Evaluation of the Gift (4:14-20)

PAUL REJOICED OVER THE PHILIPPIAN'S **PAST** GIFT (15-16)

(2) The Philippians sent gifts on two separate occasions during the time Paul ministered in **THESSALONICA** (4:16).

Paul's next stop after Philippi was **THESSALONICA** (Acts 17:1-9).

He again experienced needs, including lack of funds for food and lodging.

Their gifts permitted him to give more time to evangelistic outreach, both in the synagogue and among the pagan idol worshipers (1 Thessalonians 1:9).

Philippians Generosity - Philippians 4:17 - OBSERVATIONS

17 Not that I **desire** your gifts; what I **desire** is that more be credited to your account.

18 I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.

-- Philippians 4:17-18 ... NKJV

• Paul's Evaluation of the Gift (4:14-20)

PAUL REJOICED OVER THE PHILIPPIAN'S **FUTURE** REWARD

Paul was criticized for both his refusal to take money from one group and his willingness to accept it from others.

When he labored in Philippi, he did not take their money; but when he moved on to Thessalonica and Corinth, he gladly received their support (1 Thessalonians 2:3-8).

He could not understand why his friends would entertain such attacks on his Integrity (2 Corinthians 11:7).

Paul now denied that he sought their money. The verb "**DESIRE**" means to seek.

He did not seek to add one gift upon another. They had already given to him twice; now he dispelled the notion that he was after a third or fourth gift or even more.

Philippians Generosity - Philippians 4:17 - OBSERVATIONS

17 Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account.

18 I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.

-- Philippians 4:17-18 ... NKJV

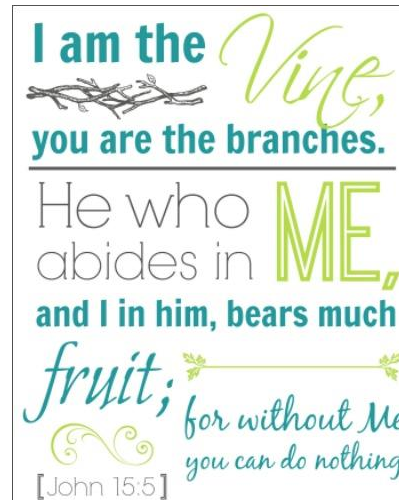
• Paul's Evaluation of the Gift (4:14-20)

PAUL REJOICED OVER THE PHILIPPIAN'S **FUTURE** REWARD

He sought after "profit" or "fruit." He often referred to converts and to the righteous change within believing sinners as **fruit** (Romans 1:13; 7:4; Ephesians 5:9; Colossians 1:6).

Fruit, for the believer, is total submission to the indwelling Christ, who will then manifest Himself through the child of God (John 15:1-8).

Just as Christ came to seek and to save the lost, so a fruitful or profitable believer will seek the salvation of others, the spread of the gospel, and the expansion of the kingdom.



Philippians Generosity - Philippians 4:18 - OBSERVATIONS

17 Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account.

18 I have **received full payment** and have **more than enough**. I **am amply supplied**, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.

-- Philippians 4:17-18 ... NKJV

• Paul's Evaluation of the Gift (4:14-20)

PAUL REJOICED OVER THE PHILIPPIAN'S **SACRIFICE** TO GOD

Paul now looked at how their gift affected him and God.

THREE verbs are given to describe its impact upon him.

(1) "I HAVE ALL". He **RECEIVED A FULL PAYMENT** from them for his total investment of time in their lives. This is a business term that speaks of total reimbursement.

(2) "AND ABOUND". Paul actually received more than he expected or deserved [**"MORE THAN ENOUGH"**].

(3) "I AM FULL". Paul now was in a financial position without any immediate need. He did not need any more money from them [**"I AM AMPLY SUPPLIED"**].

Philippians Generosity - Philippians 4:18 - OBSERVATIONS

17 Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account.

18 I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from **Epaphroditus** the gifts you sent. They are a **fragrant offering**, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.

-- Philippians 4:17-18 ... NKJV

• Paul's Evaluation of the Gift (4:14-20)

PAUL REJOICED OVER THE PHILIPPIAN'S **SACRIFICE** TO GOD

The apostle then describes the gift that was sent by the Philippians through their messenger **EPAPHRODITUS**.

He equated it with the sacrifices given to God by the nation of Israel. **THREE (3)** aspects are given.

(1) "**FRAGRANT OFFERING**".

Israel presented to God five different offerings ... burnt, meal, peace, sin and trespass (Leviticus 1:1-5:19).

The first three were sweet-smelling offering, the latter two were not.

The first three were voluntary; the latter two were compulsory, offered through confession of sin.

The incense of the first three was sweet before God, but the incense of the latter two was not.

The Philippian believer's gift to Paul was voluntary, given out of love and gratitude.



Philippians Generosity - Philippians 4:18 - OBSERVATIONS

17 Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account.

18 I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an **acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.**

-- Philippians 4:17-18 ... NKJV

• Paul's Evaluation of the Gift (4:14-20)

PAUL REJOICED OVER THE PHILIPPIAN'S **SACRIFICE** TO GOD

(2) **"ACCEPTABLE SACRIFICE"**.

The Philippian's gift was an **"ACCEPTABLE SACRIFICE"**, a gift freely given from a life totally dedicated to God (Romans 12:1; 2 Corinthians 8:5).

Such people have first given themselves as a gift to God.

(3) **"PLEASING TO GOD"**.

The Philippians' financial support was **"PLEASING TO GOD."**

There is an immense difference between obeying the commandments of God and doing those things that are pleasing in His sight (1 John 3:22).

The former are required, but the latter go beyond the call of duty. Paul was pleased with their gift because God was pleased with it.

Philippians Generosity - Philippians 4:19-20 - OBSERVATIONS

19 And my God will meet **all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.**

20 To our God and Father be **glory** for ever and ever. Amen.

-- Philippians 4:19-20 ... NKJV

• Paul's Evaluation of the Gift (4:14-20)

PAUL REJOICED OVER THE **GOD'S SUFFICIENCY**

By making the apostle full, the church had created a financial need for itself ("**ALL YOUR NEEDS**").

They had poured out of the container of their lives into the vessel of Paul. He informed them that God would fill them back up to the brim.

A person always receives more than what he/she gives. God will always make up the difference (2 Corinthians 9:8).

People may become impoverished when they give, but God always gives out of His inexhaustible wealth ("**ACCORDING TO HIS RICHES IN GLORY BY CHRIST JESUS**"). There is no end to His abundant provision for the needs of His children.

Paul gave praise to God for meeting the needs of both the church and himself (4:20). He deserved the **GLORY** for that which He had done.

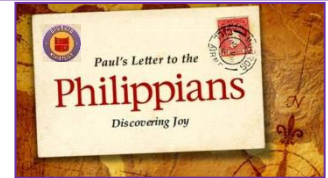
And **MY GOD**
will supply **ALL YOUR**
NEEDS ACCORDING
to **HIS RICHES** in
GLORY in CHRIST
JESUS.

PHILIPPIANS 4:19

Lesson 13 - Outline

■ Philippians: Joy In Christ

• Lesson 13: The Joy of Contentment

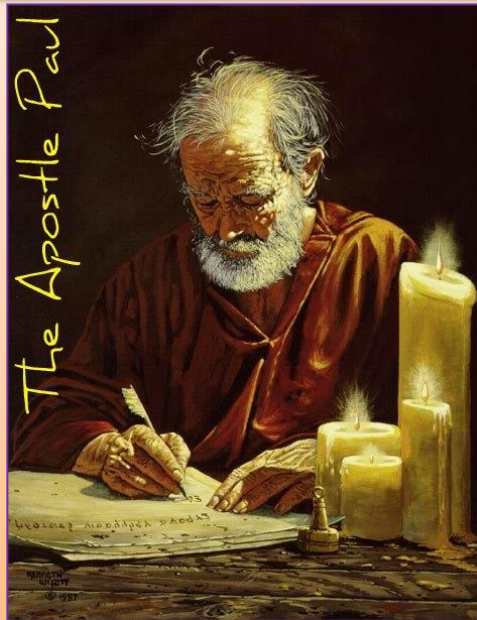


• STRUCTURE

» Lesson Preview *Introduction*

» Philippians Generosity *Philippians 4:10-20*

➔ » Greeting And Blessing *Philippians 4:21-23*



Greeting and Blessing - Philippians 4:21 - OBSERVATIONS

²¹ Greet **all God's people in Christ Jesus**.

The brothers and sisters who are with me send **greetings**.

²² All God's people here send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household.

²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen

--- Philippians 4:21-23 ... NKJV

• Closing Remarks

GREETING FROM PAUL AND THE BRETHREN

Paul saluted "**ALL GOD'S PEOPLE IN CHRIST JESUS**".

He spoke to the entire church as a whole, but he now wanted to be remembered to each individual believer.

Each Christian positionally is a saint, set apart from the world unto God (holy) by the initial sanctification of the Holy Spirit.

Paul began the epistle with greetings to the saints (plural), and he now ends with greetings to each saint (singular).

Paul associates also wanted to **greet** the church.

Greeting and Blessing - Philippians 4:22 - OBSERVATIONS

²¹ Greet all God's people in Christ Jesus. The brothers and sisters who are with me send greetings.

²² All God's people here send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household.

²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen

--- Philippians 4:21-23 ... NKJV

• Closing Remarks

GREETING FROM THE SAINTS

The saints in Rome would include the membership of the church in that city (Romans 16:1-15). [**"ALL GOD'S PEOPLE"**].

The greeting went from saints to saints. Both groups were one in Christ.

When Paul announced the greetings of the next group, the Philippians probably gasped in amazement.

The Romans also wanted to greet them, **"ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE BELONG TO CAESAR'S HOUSEHOLD."**

Through Paul's imprisonment and witness, some servants, soldiers, and perhaps relatives in the emperor's household had been saved. God used the imprisonment to advance the impact of the gospel (1:12).

The church originally was saddened by news of Paul's imprisonment; now he wanted them to rejoice with him over what God had accomplished in the lives of his captors.

Greeting and Blessing - Philippians 4:23 - OBSERVATIONS

²¹ Greet all God's people in Christ Jesus. The brothers and sisters who are with me send greetings.

²² All God's people here send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household.

²³ The **grace of the Lord Jesus Christ** be with your spirit. Amen

--- Philippians 4:21-23 ... NKJV

• Closing Remarks

BENEDICTION

Paul always magnified the **GRACE OF GOD**.

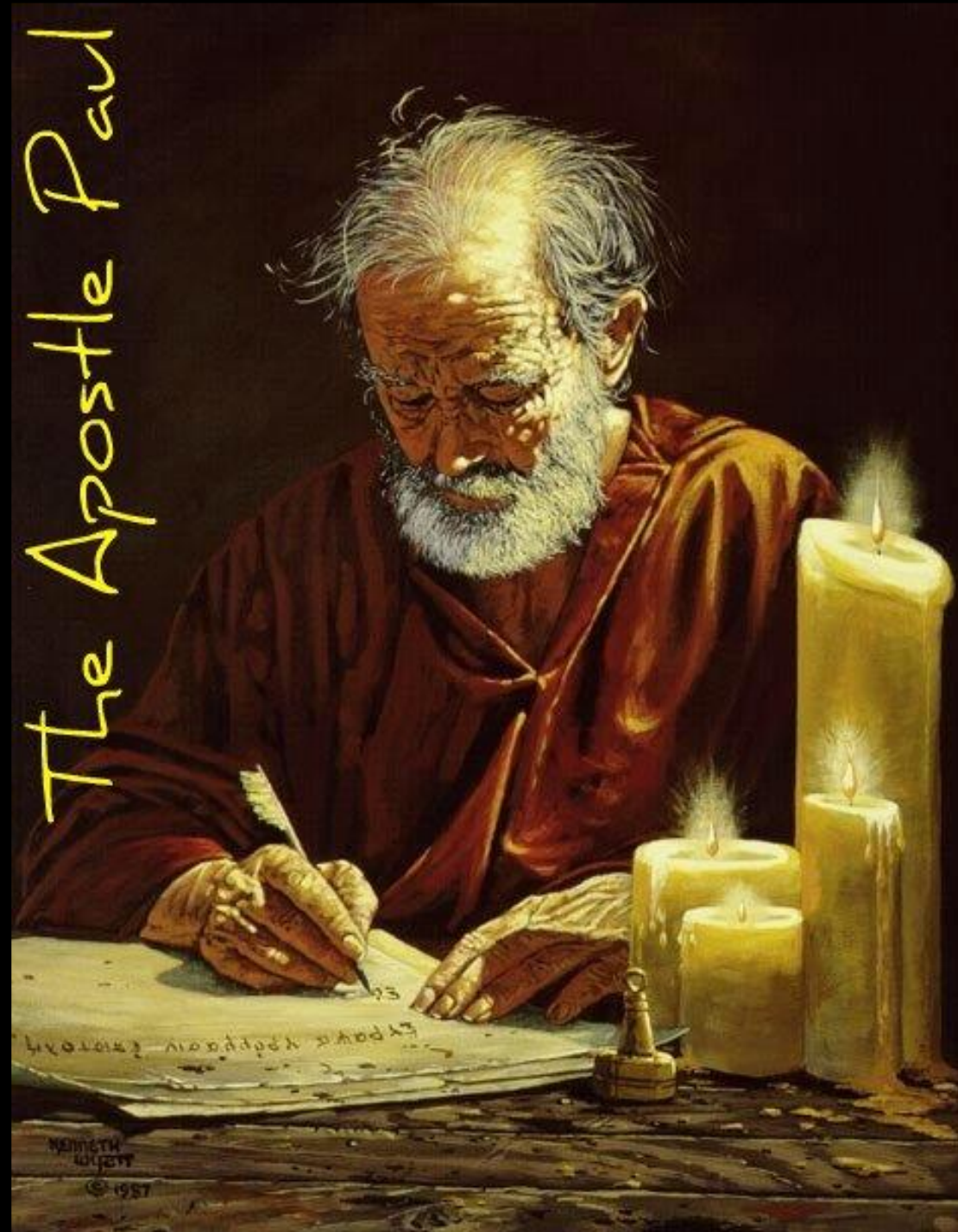
He wanted the church to experience the daily sustaining grace that all people need (John 1:16).

Such grace is for all believers, not just a select few.

The theme of the **GRACE OF GOD** begins and ends the epistle.

The *Will of God*
will never
take you where the
Grace of God will not
protect you.





The Apostle Paul

Philippians

"Joy In Christ"

End of Lesson



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