

PHILIPPIANS

JESUS OUR JOY

A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of April 18, 2021

Contentment

This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from Philippians 4:10-18

¹⁰ I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹ Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

¹⁴ Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. ¹⁵ And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. ¹⁶ Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. ¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. ¹⁸ I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.

For Further Discussion....

- Think about a **gift you received that gave you joy**. Why did the gift have that **deep effect** on you?
- Paul has received the Philippians' gift from Epaphroditus. What things does Paul find **pleasing about the gift**? (10, 17-18)
- Why is Paul so careful to let the Philippians know that he **is not dependent on the gift**? (11-13)
- Who is someone who has **shared your trouble**? Why is this such a **powerful ministry**?
- What is "**contentment**"? (11)
- What is Paul's **secret to knowing contentment**? How did Paul **learn this secret**?
- What does Paul mean when he says, "**I can do all things**"? (13)

- Share a recent time **you struggled to know contentment**. What words **describe your soul** in the midst of that struggle? **Why was contentment so hard to come by in that situation**?
- How had the **Philippians helped Paul** in both the **past** and the **present**? (14-18)
- Read **II Corinthians 8:1-5**. What **spiritual dynamics were at work** among the Macedonian churches?
- Share a specific way the Lord led you to **share in the suffering, support, and partnership** of the ministry of others. How does the Gospel compel us to take this step?
- **Pray together in light of this week's passage.**

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Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org

