



Sermon Discussion Questions

“Paul’s Joy in the Philippian’s Gift and in their Partnership” (Philippians 4:10-23) – August 9th, 2026 - Scott McCullough

Sermon Overview

Main Idea

As we come to the end of Paul’s letter to the Philippian Church, he writes to encourage the church in one of the greatest struggles in life, our struggle with being content. This encouragement is part of his larger narrative celebrating the partnership of the Philippian church. Paul is grateful for their support and participation in the mission of advancing the Gospel.

Sermon Outline

1. Paul’s Joy in the Philippian’s Gift (v10)
2. Paul’s Contentment in Every Situation (v11-13)
3. Paul’s Gratitude for the Philippian’s Partnership (v14-19)
4. Paul’s Final Greetings (v21-23)

Quotation(s)

“Estoy Contento.” (I am content) – Father and missionary partner in Mexico

“Genuine joy (and contentment) is not dictated by your changing circumstances; it is found in the unchangeable Lord.” – Steven J. Lawson

Discussion Questions

Initial Engagement

- What is the main idea of the text, or what did the sermon focus on?
- What insight from the text or sermon stood out to you most, and why?

Deeper Reflection

1. Scott began the sermon with a personal example of someone that was content (quote above). Summarize the example and think of a time where you’ve experienced someone displaying genuine contentment. On a scale of 1 (constantly disgruntled) to 10 (perfectly content), where would you rate yourself? How does self-control play a role in being content?
2. Read verses 11-13. What does it mean that Paul “knows how to be brought low” and “how to abound”? How can we do this as well? Would you say you are content in whatever situation you are in? Or has there been a time recently where you have struggled with this? What stories from the Bible (or that you’ve experienced/heard personally) have encouraged you in this aspect?



Sermon Discussion Questions

3. Verse 13 is one of the most often misused verses in the Bible. How is it misused? What do Paul's current circumstances have to do with this verse and what it does (or doesn't) mean? When we understand this verse in proper context, who is the focus on? Who's the focus on if we don't understand the context?
4. Read verses 14-16. How would Paul's experience have looked differently without their support? Hearing updates from missionaries and ministries ZF supports is crucial for our congregation. Which of these partnerships has encouraged you in the past few months? Is there a lesson/advice you've learned on how cultivate contentment? (see Steven Lawson quote above)

Final Response

- What is one thing you want to remember or one way you hope to change in light of this sermon or discussion?