

Philippians

Chapter 4:10-23

- I. **Philippians 4:10-23** ¹⁰But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.
- a. Rejoicing in the Lord
 - i. **This has been the theme throughout. “In the Lord” is our rejoicing, not our circumstances.**
 - 1. **Philippians 4:4** ⁴Rejoice in the Lord alway: *and* again I say, Rejoice.
 - b. Care
 - i. **They gave financially**
 - 1. **They couldn’t always give as much as they desired**
 - ii. **Of me**
 - 1. **Paul’s care was not for himself, but to reduce the burden of others.**
 - c. Careful
 - i. **Think or likeminded**
 - d. Lacked opportunity
 - i. **They couldn’t**
 - 1. **Not a big financial hub like Corinth. We know at least twice in Thessalonica and once in Roman prison. There may have been large gaps in between.**
 - 2. **Paul didn’t accuse them of robbing God. Malachi 3:8-10 was under Israel’s program and not the dispensation of grace.**
 - ii. **How we give**
 - 1. **II Corinthians 9:6-8** ⁶But this *I say*, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he

which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. ⁷Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. ⁸And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work:

a. I Corinthians 16:2 is where we get the idea of weekly.

II. **Philippians 4:11-13**¹¹Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content. ¹²I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. ¹³I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

a. Want

- i. **Mark 12:44** ⁴⁴For all *they* did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, *even* all her living.
- ii. **Paul clearly didn't advocate to sit back and wait on others to take care of you.**
 1. **Acts 18:3** ³And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers.
 2. **II Thessalonians 3:10**¹⁰For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

b. Contentment

- i. **Content- Greek word *autarkes*- Strongs Con.** from G846 and G714; self-complacent, i.e. contented:—content.
- ii. **Adjective form only used once. Usually verb.**
- iii. **Stoics believed in “self sufficiency”**
- iv. **Verb form**

1. **I Timothy 6:6-8** ⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.
2. **Hebrews 13:5** ⁵*Let your conversation be* without covetousness; *and be* content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

v. **Opposite is covetousness**

1. **We are told not to covet in the Ten Commandments. Covetousness makes many of the “sin lists” in scripture. See Colossians 3:5, Romans 1:29, I Corinthians 5:10-11, II Timothy 3:2 and Luke 12:15**
2. **“There is a discipline of self whereby one does not need more than one has.”**

a. **What’s our motivation for our surplus?**

- i. **Ephesians 4:28** ²⁸Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.
- ii. **I Thessalonians 4:11-12** ¹¹And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; ¹²That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and *that* ye may have lack of nothing.

iii. **See also II Corinthians 8:11-15**

c. Learned/ Know/ Instructed

i. **Experience**

d. State (Circumstances)

i. **Abased**

1. **Proverbs 13:7** ⁷There is that maketh himself rich, yet *hath* nothing: *there is* that maketh himself poor, yet *hath* great riches.
2. **II Corinthians 4:7** ⁷But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.
3. **II Corinthians 11:27**²⁷In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

ii. **Abounding**

1. **In Judaism**

- a. **Acts 24-26** ²⁶He hoped also that money should have been given him of Paul, that he might loose him: wherefore he sent for him the oftener, and communed with him.
- b. **I Timothy 6:9-10**⁹But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

e. Christ's Strength

- i. **“All things” is referencing the contentment in the states (circumstances), not a “special power source” that allows us to always succeed in this life.**
- ii. **II Corinthians 12:7-9** ⁷And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. ⁸For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. ⁹And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly

therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

- iii. **Ephesians 3:16**¹⁶That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;
- iv. **Ephesians 6:10**¹⁰Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

III. **Philippians 4:14-19**¹⁴Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction. ¹⁵Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. ¹⁶For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. ¹⁷Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. ¹⁸But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things *which were sent* from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God. ¹⁹But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

a. Communicate

- i. **Communicate**-Greek word *koinonia* – Strongs Con. partnership, i.e. (literally) participation, or (social) intercourse, or (pecuniary) benefaction:—(to) communicate(-ation), communion, (contri-)distribution, fellowship.
- ii. Partnership- in common
 - i. G2842 Fellowship (12x), Communion (4x), Communication (1x), Distribution (1x), Contribution (1x), Communicate (1x)
 - ii. Remember Philippians 1:5 and the translation of “fellowship”.
 - 1. **Phillipians 1:5**⁵For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

iii. **Give to others not words**

b. **Beginning of the gospel**

1. **Acts 16:13-15** ¹³And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted *thither*. ¹⁴And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard *us*: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. ¹⁵And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought *us*, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide *there*. And she constrained us.

a. **Thessalonica multiple times**

i. **Acts 17:1** Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews:

ii. **I Thessalonians 2:9** ²For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God.

iii. **II Thessalonians 3:8** ⁸Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

c. Giving and Receiving graciously

i. **Learning to not only give but receive graciously. It can be tempting to refuse generosity from others. Based on the next verse, Paul would have impacted their reward by not receiving the gift.**

d. Desiring fruit

i. **Reward in glory**

1. **I Corinthians 3:12-15** ¹²Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; ¹³Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. ¹⁴If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.
 - ii. **Colossians 3:24** ²⁴Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.
 - iii. **Similar in Christ's ministry**
 1. **Matthew 10:41** ⁴¹He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.
 - e. The sacrifice acceptable
 - i. **This imagery hearkens back to the levitical priesthood.**
 - f. God supplying needs
 - i. **Ephesians 1:3** ³Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:
 - ii. **God's ability is limitless**
 1. **Ephesians 3:20** ²⁰Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,
- IV. **Philippians 4:20-23** ²⁰Now unto God and our Father *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen. ²¹Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren which are with me greet you. ²²All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household. ²³The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen. (*To the Philippians written from Rome, by Epaphroditus.*)
- a. God and Father be glory

- i. **This phrase or idea was used several times in scripture by Paul, either at the beginning or ending of his letters. He alone is worthy of the glory. See Galatians 1:5, Romans 16:27, II Timothy 4:18**

b. Saints

- i. **Paul made it a point to mention Caesar's household and the furtherance of the Gospel even while he was in Prison.**

1. **Philippians 1:12-13** ¹²But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things *which happened* unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; ¹³So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other *places*;

c. God's grace

- i. **Grace can be summarized as unmerited favor, underserved kindness and an unearned gift.**
- ii. **Paul started this epistle in Philippians 1:2 as "grace be unto you" and ends with "grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all".**

1. **Ephesians 2:8-9** ⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast.

2. **Romans 5:20** ²⁰Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

3. **II Corinthians 5:21** ²¹For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

4. **Ephesians 1:6** ⁶To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

5. **Colossians 2:10** ¹⁰And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: