

## THE SECRET OF TRUE CONTENTMENT

(Philippians 4:10-13)

### I. CONFLICT IN THE LOCAL CHURCH (4:1-3)

### II. THE PREREQUISITES OF INNER PEACE (4:4-7)

### III. WITH THE BETTER CHOICE COMES A PEACE OF MIND (4:8-9)

### IV. PEACE WITH REGARDS TO DAILY NEEDS (4:10-13)

A. Paul was able to \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord because He met his needs by motivating the Philippian believers to send a \_\_\_\_\_ gift to support him and his ministry. (4:10a)

\* Is money a legitimate reason to worry?

1. The apostle was touched that these believers were concerned for him; the phrase “*your care for me*” is literally the act of \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ of me. (4:10b)

2. Apparently the Philippians had desired to get this gift to Paul at an \_\_\_\_\_ but they “*lacked opportunity*,” for whatever reason it was not able to be sent until now. (4:10c)

B. Paul stressed to the believers in Philippi that he had \_\_\_\_\_ some valuable lessons when it came to \_\_\_\_\_. (4:11-12)

1. He had learned how to be \_\_\_\_\_, which is somewhat elusive to most materialistic Americans who not only have their basic \_\_\_\_\_ met, but also most of their \_\_\_\_\_. (4:11)

2. The word “*learned*” has all of his learning experiences in view as a whole; it took both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to produce this inner conviction of true contentment.

3. By experience Paul now knew how to make ends meet with only \_\_\_\_\_ means, which meant at times he went \_\_\_\_\_ and even suffered \_\_\_\_\_. (4:12a)
  
4. By experience he also knew how to get along with an \_\_\_\_\_, which meant to be full and \_\_\_\_\_. (4:12b)
  
- C. The conclusion that the apostle came to ("*I can do all things*") was \_\_\_\_\_ at all egotistical, but rather he had discovered that the more \_\_\_\_\_ upon Christ that he became, the easier it was to face his trials (4:13)
  1. The word "\_\_\_\_\_" is emphasized in the Greek sentence; and it means not only all the things he just mentioned, but \_\_\_\_\_ in his life. (2 Cor. 9:8; 1 Pet. 4:11)
  
  2. What appeared to be self sufficiency was in reality a \_\_\_\_\_ of human resources and an acknowledgment of the all sufficiency of the One with whom he had spiritual \_\_\_\_\_. (Gal. 2:20)
  
  3. Paul never allowed his own personal weaknesses to be an \_\_\_\_\_ for inactivity; but rather he came to realize that his \_\_\_\_\_ could be used by his Master to spiritually enrich him and others. (2 Cor. 12:7-10; 13:4)
  
  4. The apostle had discovered the profound truth that inner contentment was \_\_\_\_\_ found in deliverance from life's adversities, but it was only found in true \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.

\* How can this find application in your own life?