

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Is it easier to pray and cling to Christ in the good times or the hard times? Why?
2. What do you think you need in life for a deeper contentment?
3. Who in your life most embodies a deep Christian contentment? What stands out to you about their life?

DIG DEEPER

Read Philippians 4:10-12

Contentment in all Circumstances

4. What is Paul expressing thankfulness for in verse 10?

In verse 11 Paul states *“not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have _____ in whatever situation I am to be content.”* Why is this underlined word so important for us to understand?

5. How is consistent Christian contentment a “secret” to be learned? How is it evident that many Christians have not yet learned it?
6. Paul says that he has learned the secret to contentment in two vastly different spectrums of life. What are they?

“Highs” of life	“Lows” of life
How to be brought low	How to abound

7. It is easy to see the challenge in finding contentment in Christ in the hardest of times, but how do you think it might be a challenge to find contentment in Christ when life is going well?

Read Philippians 4:13

Contentment through Christ

8. What does Paul say is the secret of consistent contentment?
9. How do you understand the relationship between strength and contentment? What might discontentment say about our spiritual life?
10. How is this verse misused today by well-meaning Christians who take it out of its context? Do you think Paul means to encourage others that they can climb the highest mountain, compete in a triathlon or do extraordinary physical feats?

11. How can you grow in your relationship with Christ in such a way that you are strengthened to endure all circumstances with joy and contentment? What do you think this type of relationship with the Lord looks like in day to day life?

Read Philippians 4:14-20

Charity as a Contented Act of Worship

12. Paul was very active in planting churches and preaching at various locations, but in the beginning of his ministry to Macedonia there was only one church that partnered with him financially. What church was this (see v. 15)?
13. Paul shares thankfulness for the financial gift, and yet he wants to be clear that he did not expect a gift or seek a gift *from* them, but he is seeking something *for* the Philippians. What is he seeking for them in verse 17? What is the fruit he is referring to?

Read Matthew 6:20. How are the Philippians storing treasures in heaven?

14. What does Paul call the financial gifts that were sent through Epaphroditus?
- a. A fragrant _____
 - b. A _____ acceptable and pleasing to God
15. What is the blessed assurance that Paul gives the Philippians in verse 19?
16. What does Paul mean by 'every need'? How does this relate to Matt 6:25-33?
17. His provision for us is in accordance to his _____ in glory in Christ Jesus. How is this an encouragement to you?
18. Paul's heart and ministry can be summed up in verse 20. What is His prayer?

BRING IT HOME

19. How would your life change if you were consistently content with your earthly circumstances? Where in your life do you see a need for growth in this area of contentment?
20. How are you seeking to store up treasures in heaven?
21. What area of your life are you seeking glory for yourself? How can you shift the focus to bringing glory to God in this area of life?

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray that we would learn to be content in any and every circumstance through Christ.
- Pray that we would store our treasures in heaven and invest in things of eternal value.
- Pray for strengthening grace to live for God's glory in all of life.