



Sermon, Tim Lueking, 12/6/2009

Paradox Sermon Series
Part # 5 – Content in Need
Philippians 4:10-13

Sermon Series Summary

As we read the Bible sometimes we come across confusing statements that seem to be more paradoxical than anything else. Our desire through the course of this series is to look primarily through the book of Philippians and lock in on a few of these paradoxical statements. Come and join as we learn the truth about the paradoxes found in Scripture.

Sermon Summary

“...for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. (v. 11b)”

Sermon Big Question – Can I be content in the midst of my need?

Have you ever struggled with the virtue of contentment? It seems like a hard virtue to embrace and apply in our lives especially when we find ourselves in an hour of need. As we study this text in Philippians, we will observe that contentment is not only a virtue that can be found in times of trial but it is also a command. Come and see what it means to be content in need!

Sermon Big Idea – Contentment is a Gift from God

Four Secrets to Contentment

Philippians 4:10-13 – ¹⁰I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹²I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Secret #1 – Patiently Rely on God’s Providence (v. 10)

- **Key Point** – The first secret that we examine is observed as we study verse 10 together. It is in this text that we read of a divine appointment that comes to fruition. It has been almost ten years since Paul established the church in Philippi and this church has not had the opportunity to be in contact with him since his departure from their presence. In this text, we read of how God uses this long awaited contact with the church to encourage and uplift the Apostle Paul in his time of trial and need. We learn from this blessing that there are many divine appointments waiting for us, many of them will take us completely by surprise. Yet in all of these divine appointments God teaches us that life is not about our plans, our agendas, or our mission rather it is about God’s glory be shown through us relying patiently on His divine providence.

Secret #2 – Be Satisfied with God’s Provision (v. 11)

- **Key Point** – The second secret that we examine is observed as we study verse 11 together. We observe Paul’s great secret to surviving the most difficult days that he faced in his life. The secret is straightforward. He learned the secret of being content. The secret is concrete and

straightforward in the fact that contentment is a gift that is given from God as we walk with Him. The problem that many American's face today is that they have a desire for MORE. They are constantly seeking to have more money, more possessions, and more power. Why do they seek more in these areas? The answer is that they believe that in seeking more, they will find the pleasure, peace, and happiness they desire. God's secret for contentment is simple. He declares that He will never abandon us as long as we seek Him and His presence. He declares that He will equip us for victory if we just rely on Him and His strength. If you want contentment then learn to be satisfied with God's Provision. The Lord Provides!

Secret #3 – Contentment is Independent from Circumstances (v. 12)

- **Key Point** – The third secret that we examine is observed as we study verse 12 together. As we study verse 12, we come to the quick realization that Paul was able to find contentment in the midst of trying times because of the simple fact that he learned that contentment was not based on external circumstances, it was independent from our circumstances in life. Contentment is dependent upon our relationship and acceptance of Jesus Christ!

Secret #4 – Contentment is Found in the Strength of the Lord (v. 13)

- **Key Point** – The final secret that we examine is observed as we study verse 13 together. The final verse in this section brings our attention to the statement that we all need to be reminded of as we walk on this earth. Life is difficult from time to time and as times get difficult we begin looking for something to help get through those difficult days. Some people turn to drugs, alcohol, sex, pornography, affairs, lying, cheating, stealing, and much more but you will never find the strength you need in those items. The strength for survival always comes from the Lord himself. Where are trying to find your strength today?

Memory Verse:

Philippians 4:11 – for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. (v. 11b)

Challenge

- **Partners in Peace** – Join us fro the remainder of the year as we continue our prayer initiative. Find at least one other person that you can meet with twice a week from now until the end of the year and pray for peace and joy to overwhelm your heart, mind, and soul as well as praying for peace and joy to consume God's churches in our community and pray for God's peace to transform our country.