Bible Study

**Philippians: Living with Joy**

**Chapter 4**

OUTLINE OF PHILIPPIANS

(Warren Wiersbe)

**DISCUSSION**

Chapter 4

III. THE SECURE MIND—chapter 4

A. God’s Peace—4:1–9

**B. God’s Power—4:10-13**

C. God’s Provision—4:14–23

**DISCUSSION**

God’s peace protects the heart and the mind.

*“…and the peace of God…shall guard your heart and mind…”*

Spiritual stability is a result of how a person thinks.

Paul gives eight (8) godly virtues upon which we should focus.

* Whatever is…
  + True
  + Honorable
  + Right
  + Pure
  + Lovely
  + Good Report
  + Excellent
  + Praiseworthy

The key to godly living is godly thinking.

We cannot afford to waste our “mind power” on thoughts that tear us down or that would tear others down if these thoughts were shared.

Right praying => right thinking. Right thinking => right behavior.

We must learn the Word, receive it, hear it, and do it.

Having the peace of God, and having peace with God, brings about contentment.

**Romans 5:1; Philippians 4:7-9**

\*What is contentment?

Contentment is not **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, nor is it a false peace based on ignorance.

* The complacent believer is unconcerned about others.
  + Complacent - pleased, especially with oneself or one's merits, advantages, situation, etc., often without awareness of some potential danger or defect; self-satisfied.

Contentment is not **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** from the battle, but rather an abiding peace and confidence in the midst of the battle.

In verses 10-20, Paul gives us three spiritual resources which make us adequate and give us contentment.

**DISCOVERY****God’s Power**

**Philippians 4:10-13**

(v. 10) The Providence of God

The word “providence” comes from two Latin words: pro, meaning “before,” and video, meaning “to see.”

God’s providence simply means that God sees to it beforehand. It is the working of God in advance to arrange circumstances and situations for the fulfilling of His purposes.

How is God’s providence seen in verse 10?

Notice that Paul says they had been concerned, but they had lacked the opportunity to help.

God has blessed the Philippian church to now be able to extend their love to Paul in a tangible way.

The Philippian church was concerned but lacked opportunity; some Christians today have the opportunities but lack the concern.

A confident trust in God’s providence is foundational to contentment.

(v. 11-13) The Unfailing Power of God

The providence of God can enable every believer to be content in every circumstance of life.

Please note that Paul says that he has “learned” to be content. The verb “learned” means “learned by experience.”

Paul’s spiritual contentment was not something he had immediately after he was saved. He had to go through many difficult experiences of life in order to learn how to be content.

Paul was satisfied with little, and he was satisfied with much. “I know how to…(CSB)” Paul learned this contentment by experience and spiritual maturity.

Paul says he learned the secret to rising above whatever circumstances he might experience. He kept his focus on heavenly realities.

**2 Corinthians 4:17; Colossians 3:1-2**

The secret, he says, is Christ’s strength. (v.13)

John MacArthur states, “[Paul’s] adequacy and sufficiency came from his union with the adequate and sufficient Christ.”

**Galatians 2:20**

When Paul says, “I can do all things…” he has in mind physical things, not spiritual things.

The Greek word used for “I can do” means “to be strong”, “to have power”, “to have resources”.

The takeaway for us is that when we reach the limit of our resources and our strength, we are infused with the strength of Christ.

Isaiah 40:29-31; Ephesians 3:20

**DIRECTION**

Read Philippians 4

Choose one of the “God’s Providence” verses given earlier in the lesson. Explain how the providence of God is seen in that verse. Only choose one.

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